

HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

BIRLA SUGAR

SNAP SHOTS

It's end of the road for K K Birla brandname

Three years after the death of Krishna Kumar Birla, most of the companies under the K K Birla Group will shed the legendary tag. A majority of these companies are being managed by his daughters and sons-in-law who want to create their own identities.

KK Birla had divided his empire among his daughters Nandini Nopany, Jyotsna Poddar and Shobhana Bhartia , leaving Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals - the biggest group entity - to be managed jointly by Jyotsna's husband Saroj Poddar, Shobhana's husband Shyam S Bhartia and Nandini's son C S Nopany.

Saroj Poddar, who renamed his group 'Adventz' last month, told TOI that there is "nothing called KK Birla Group now". "There is no point calling it KK Birla Group as it is divided among his three daughters. If there is a problem with any company in the group, then the others may be affected," he said, adding: "The other divisions are also changing their identity. Chambal is not likely to be called a K K Birla Group firm anymore."

Only the sugar companies under Nopany are still loosely called 'KK Birla Group of Sugar Companies'. Nopany could not be contacted for comment.

"For all practical purposes the K K Birla Group is nonexistent. There is hardly any crossholding between the group firms. Whatever remains is pure investment by one fraction into another. K K Birla was a visionary. We are taking lot of initiative in his name," Poddar added.

He said that Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals (of which he is the chairman) would continue to be an independent company. It is not under Adventz as it is a mixed affair. How the Birla are's taking it? S K Birla - K K's nephew and now the second eldest member of the Birla family - accepted it as the "rule of the world". "There is no Birla in the group. One is Nopany, another Poddar and the third Bhartia. Every company in the K K Birla Group has a different chairman. So, it is quite natural," he said.

S K Birla, who created brands like OCM and Digjam , sounded philosophical about the end of an era: "Life should go on. Once there were 10 Birlas in Birla Building. Now, I and Basant Kumar Birla (K K's younger brother) are the only two regulars. You have to change with time."

OTHER PLAYERS

Shree Renuka Sugars to sell 25% in Renuka Brasil Holdings

India's largest sugar refiner Shree Renuka Sugars is in talks with several private equity companies and strategic investors to sell 25% stake to retire debt in its wholly-owned company Renuka Brasil Holdings, through which it owns two sugar companies in Brazil.

Shree Renuka is India's first sugar company with multinational operations. About 50% of the company's revenue comes from its Brazilian subsidiaries.

Shree Renuka is also learnt to have tied up with commodities and energy trader Olam International for marketing its sugar and ethanol output in Brazil. The combined cane crushing capacity of the Brazilian subsidiaries is 13.6 million tonne per annum

E.I.D-Parry completes buyout of Sadashiva Sugars

E.I.D-Parry India Ltd has completed the acquisition of the entire equity stake in Sadashiva Sugars Ltd, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary.

The Murugappa Group Company holds the entire stake of 6.02 crore equity shares of Rs 10 each, it has announced in the stock exchange.

According to a senior executive, the company is now in the process of expanding the sugar mill to about 3,500 tonnes through debottlenecking at an expenditure of Rs 30-35 crore.

Being in North Karnataka gives the Murugappa Group company multi-fold benefits; apart from being in the second largest sugarcane producing State, it is a high sugar recovery ranging around 12 per cent per tonne of cane, and access to sugar markets in Central India.

Renuka Sugars plans to list Brazilian unit in '12

Shree Renuka Sugars plans to list its Brazilian company in Sao Paulo in 2012. The company, which acquired two loss-making companies in Brazil last year and turned them around in a short span, is at present in talks with a couple of sovereign funds to raise up to \$250 million by selling a quarter of the holding company - Renuka Brasil Holdings, in a pre-IPO deal. Shree Renuka is India's largest sugar refiner.

The fund will be used to part-finance a new acquisition that it is targeting in Brazil as well as to retire a part of its debt.

Sweet, but not financially

Shree Renuka Sugars' cane buying costs swallowed the entire return from producing sugar.

Sugarcane procurement by Shree Renuka Sugars (SRS) in the 2010-11 sugar season was at a price far higher than its competitors among major sugar producers. So much so that their cost of procurement was equal to the average realisation of the industry from the sale of sugar.

In major cane-growing states such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the respective state governments fix the minimum cane price in consultation with sugar mills, and it always remains higher than the FRP. In UP, for instance, the government announced Rs 2,050 per tonne, with a 9.5 per cent recovery rate (Maharashtra's recovery rate is considered 11.5 per cent).

Nandi sugar factory crushes record cane

Nandi Cooperative Sugar Factory has set a record by crushing 9.25 lakh tonne sugarcane last year. The factory targets to crush a quantity of 10 lakh tonne sugarcane this year, Factory President Shashikantgouda Patil told reporters here. The factory has earned a net profit of Rs 6.10 crore and produced Rs 8 crore units of energy last year, he said. "Of 8 crore unit power, 4 crore units have been sold to a private grid at a rate of Rs 5 to Rs 7 range per unit," he added.

INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

CII raises pitch for decontrol of sugar industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has asked the government to give freedom to the sugar industry to sell the sweetener in the open market and to remove the obligation on mills to sell subsidised sugar to the government for PDS requirements.

Saying the sugar industry was "strangulated" by various government controls, CII said the government should remove the levy obligation as well as the monthly release mechanism for vibrant growth of the sector.

Sweet prospect for sugar factories

The Bihar cabinet today gave permission for inviting fresh bids for nine closed sugar factories of Bihar State Sugar Corporation (BSSC).

This would be done by SBI Caps, the financial consultant for giving factories of BSSC to private hands through competitive bidding.

Total 15 factories belong to the BSSC, out of which six sugar factories – Lauria, Sugauli, Bihta, Motipur, Raiyyam and Sakri – have been taken over by private investors.

As far as remaining nine sugar factories – Guraru, Warsaliganj, Goraul, New Sawan, Siwan, Hathua, Samastipur, Banmankhi and Lohat – are concerned, bids were invited thrice in the past but no one turned up in the competitive bidding.

Sugar may drop as Europe, India boost supplies: Kingsman

Sugar price may drop at least 15% by early next year as an increase in supplies from Europe and Asia compensate for less-than-expected production in Brazil, according to broker and researcher Kingsman.

The March-delivery contract may drop below 25 cents a pound on ICE Futures US in New York starting January, Managing Director Jonathan Kingsman, said in a phone interview. The contract traded 1.2 % higher at 29.34 cents a pound in Mumbai.

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Global meeting to push for sugar reforms

Reform of India's tightly controlled sugar sector will top the agenda of an international conference kicking off on September 5, as traders and analysts call for changes to allow the country to become a regular exporter, competing with top producer Brazil.

The New Delhi government, keen to ensure cheap availability of the sweetener and to restrain high food inflation, currently sets the price mills must pay to farmers and buys 20 per cent of their output at a big discount for its welfare schemes.

It also decides how much sugar will be sold in the open market and at times imposes limits on stocks that large buyers can hold -- all measures which some industry players say forces India into a damaging cycle of boom and shortage.

Sugar prices rise on festival demand

Sugar prices in Maharashtra increased by Rs 15-20 a quintal at upper level on Monday on renewed demand from Calcutta-side buyers and increased local demand for Ganeshotsav festival. At Vashi market, spot rate rose by Rs 10-15 tracking firm Naka and Mill tender rates. Maharashtra's mills have sold more than two lakh bags (each 100 kg) weighing on firm sentiment in the physical market. Sugar futures prices were range bound with small ups and downs, said traders.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association sugar rates:

Spot rates: S-grade Rs 2776 -2871 (Rs 2768 -2861) and M-grade Rs 2826-2976 (Rs 2821-2971).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 2730-2760 (Rs 2730-2770) and M grade was Rs 2800-2900 (Rs 2820-2900).

Co-op sugar units, farmer bodies at loggerheads

Cooperative sugar factories and farmers' organisations in Maharashtra are at loggerheads over the first advance payment to cane growers for the 2011-12 crushing season, expected to begin from October 1.

A committee, chaired by chief minister Prithviraj Chavan, has already asked factories not to pay the first advance in excess of the state's fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs 1,375 per tonne.

Farmers' organisations have threatened to take out a morcha in the third week of the month and launch a statewide agitation to press their demand of higher first advance payment.

Govt not opposed to decontrol of sugar sector: Food Ministry

The government is not opposed to decontrol of the sugar sector, provided it does not affect the interests of farmers and consumers, a top Food Ministry official said on Tuesday.

"The government is not averse to any decontrol, provided it does not cause difficulty to farmers," Food Secretary B C Gupta said at a sugar conference.

Sugar industry body Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has been demanding that the government give them the freedom to sell sugar in the open market.

It also wants the removal of the levy sugar system, under which mills are required to sell 10 per cent of their production to the government at a subsidized rate for distribution through ration shops.

Kolhapur MP predicts below par sugar output

Raju Shetty, independent MP from Hatkanangle, in Kolhapur district, on Sunday challenged the state government's claim of record production this year, stating that an erratic monsoon and low rate of sugarcane cutting would lead to lower-than-expected sugar production.

Higher inflows cap gains in sugar

Demand from mills, local and in neighbouring States, kept sugar prices firm on the Vashi wholesale market.

Prices rose by Rs 10-15 a quintal at the mill level on Tuesday. Spot M-grade variety was up by Rs 15-20 while S-grade ruled steady. *Naka* delivery rates were unchanged. Retail demand is good ahead of *Ganeshotsav* festival, said traders.

Market analysts said sugar gained because of higher spot demand driven by the continuing festival season. However, adequate stocks and increased supplies have limited the gains, they said.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 2,776-2,865 (Rs 2,776-2,871) and M-grade Rs 2,842-2,991 (Rs 2,826-2,976).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 2,730-2,760 (Rs 2,730-2,760) and M-grade Rs 2,800-2,900 (Rs 2,800-2,900).

Mechanisation, lower price may hit sugarcane crushing in Maharashtra

The Government's move to deploy mechanical harvesters instead of manual labour, and offer a price that is lower than last year are two issues which are threatening to hit the onset of 2011 sugarcane crushing season due to begin in Maharashtra by the middle of October.

The Raghunath Patil-led Shetkari Sanghatana (SS) has proclaimed that sugar factories will not be allowed to operate till the issues are settled, and has announced a series of

farmer rallies and conferences across Maharashtra over the next two months to increase awareness.

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Kingsman cuts global sugar surplus forecast

Leading global consultancy firm Kingsman on Tuesday pruned its global sugar surplus forecast by more than 13% to 9.161 million tonne in the 2011-12 crop year due to a lower-than-expected crop in top producer Brazil.

As concerns mounted over the impact of frost on crops in central and southern regions of Brazil, Kingsman has also cut its global output and consumption forecasts for 2011-12 and said the surplus figure may be lowered again depending on the cane harvests in key growing nations.

India sugar conundrum: Clamour for decontrol gains din

You can't live without the sweetener! But farmers as well as Sugar mills can't live with the sweetener. This appears to be the crux of the problem plaguing Indian sugar industry.

Sugar in India is a heavily controlled commodity. The control mechanism often evokes a nostalgic appeal, the same being the relic of license raj.

A release mechanism and levy obligation is exercised by the government to control sugar. In the open market, sugar is being sold subject to the directives from the Directorate of sugar in the Union govt.

Global sugar surplus reduced to 9.16 mt for 2011-12

The world sugar surplus is expected to decline to 9.16 million tonnes in 2011-12 from the previous estimate of 10.58 million tonnes due to a possible drop in production, the Switzerland-based sugar broker and researcher Kingsman SA said.

Kingsman also lowered global production and consumption forecast for 2011-12 season, which starts from October 1 in most countries. It said it could cut its world sugar surplus figures depending on Brazilian crop.

"We have reduced our estimate for the 2011-12 world surplus to 9.16 million tonnes. This small reduction ...in our estimated surplus hides a number of significant changes in individual countries," Jonathan Kingsman, Chief Executive Officer of Kingsman, said in a statement.

Sugar output may reach 9.4 mt in Maharashtra

Sugar output in Maharashtra, the country's largest producing state, will likely hit a record 9.4 million tonne in the marketing year starting October 1 due to higher cane crushing as well as favorable weather, a senior industry executive said on Wednesday.

Maharashtra, which crushed around 81 million tonne of sugarcane in 2010-11, produced 9.07 million tonne of sugar during the year. The state alone produces around one-third of the country's annual sugar output.

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India must allow additional sugar exports: Cargill

India should allow additional exports of 1.5mn metric tons to 2mn tons sugar to help mills benefit from high global prices, Cargill India said on Wednesday.

Also, the Government should not set any time-limit for shipments, Cargill India said.

India may export raw sugar for the first time in four years in 2011-12, as output exceeds demand for a second straight season, Balrampur Chini Mills' MD Vivek Saraogi was quoted as saying.

India last exported raw sugar in the 2007-08 crop season.

Exportable surplus may total 4mn metric tons in the 2011-12 season beginning Oct. 1 and some sugar can be exported in the raw form, Saraogi said.

The Government should permit sugar exports at the start of the season so that companies can plan their production, he was quoted as saying.

State bid to woo sugar mill investors

Sugarcane industries minister Awadhesh Prasad Kushwaha on Monday assured sugar mill owners and sugarcane growers of the state government's commitment to provide incentives to attract investments for production of sugar in the state. "Our state has abundant water which can be used to increase sugarcane yield," he said and called upon investors to take advantage of the situation by setting up new sugar mills in the state.

Addressing India-International SugarCon, 2011, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in collaboration with the state sugarcane industries department, the minister said sugarcane production could be enhanced by using modern sugarcane farming technique. Bihar's contribution to national sugarcane production was once 25%, which has come down to as low as 2%, he said and stressed the need to regain the old glory.

UP prepares for cane crushing season

Sugarcane acreage estimated to rise over 2.2 million hectares in 2011-12.

In the backdrop of an estimated 7.2 per cent increase in sugarcane acreage during 2011-12, the Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up for its crushing season and is holding cane area reservation meetings.

Sugarcane is one of the most important cash crops for UP and the state's economy depends upon it to a large extent. While over four million farmers' families are engaged in sugarcane farming, UP's biggest organised industrial sector comprising 125 odd sugar mills is based upon it.

The total cane requirement of all the operational sugar mills is over 800 million tonnes.

During 2010-11, sugarcane farmers' dues on the sugar industry alone were over Rs 13,000 crore, which excludes the local economy of gur and khandsari units.

UP cane farmers demand R300 as floor price

With the sugar season in Uttar Pradesh, the country's second largest sugar producing state, which is also going to the polls next year, 4 million cane farmers are gearing up for a tough bargain as far as fixing the cane price is concerned.

At cane reservation meetings being held by the Cane Commissioner in Lucknow, farmers of all the sub divisions of the state have strongly demanded that the cane price to be set at R300 per quintal. The cane reservation meetings are being held prior to the state fixing the state advised price (SAP) for sugarcane. The meetings entail detailed consultations with both the cane farmers as well as mill owners.

Last year, the price of cane had been set at R205 for the common variety, for which the farmers are demanding R300 this year.

Expert tips on sugarcane yield boost

The two-day "India-International SugarCon-2011" concluded here on Tuesday with focus on increasing the sugarcane yield, sugar and ethanol production to exploit the full agro-climatic resources in Bihar.

The conference, jointly organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and department of sugarcane industries (government of Bihar), also held a farmers' meet wherein approximately 500 sugarcane farmers were apprised by agriculture scientists on ways to multiply the high-yield variety sugarcane seeds procured from Pusa Research Institute, Madhopur Research Institute and from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

Experts said given that the research centres produce only 1500 quintals of high variety sugarcane seeds, these had to be multiplied by the farmers at the KVKs, in all blocks and sugar farms.

Sugar rises in futures trade on spot demand

Supported by a pick-up in spot market demand for the ongoing festive season, sugar futures rose by 0.25% today, notwithstanding the adequate stocks position.

However, higher supply in the market, restricted gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in September edged higher by Rs 5, or 0.18%, to Rs 2,774 per quintal, with an open interest for 26,160 lots.

Similarly, the sweetener for delivery in October gained Rs 4, or 0.14%, to Rs 2,794 per quintal, with an open interest for 11,720 lots.

Analysts attributed the rise in sugar futures prices to a pick-up in demand in the spot market, driven by the ongoing festive season but adequate stocks in the market following higher supplies, restricted gains.

Farmers for 50% cane price rise

Encouraged by a significant 17.25 per cent proposed increase in the Fair and Remunerative Prices (FRP), farmers across all major producing states have started demanding a 40-50 per cent rise in sugar cane prices for the upcoming crushing season of October - September, 2011-12.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended the government increase FRP for the next sugar season i.e. 2012-13, to Rs 170 a quintal as against Rs 145 a quintal announced this year. The government had fixed FRP at Rs 139 a quintal in the last crushing season.

Farmers in India's largest sugar producer, Maharashtra, have urged the government to pay the first advance estimates in tune with a price of Rs 180-200 per quintal. A committee chaired by Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, however, has asked co-operative sugar factories to stick to FRP for the first advance payment, generally, done in the first fortnight of October, before harvesting the standing cane crop.

Last year, the average payout by these mills remained at Rs 200 per quintal, nearly 44 per cent above from the FRP.

Sugar industry seeks extension of export permits

The sugar industry wants the Centre to allow exports over the next four-five months, when peak crushing for the new season starting October takes place.

This, according to it, is necessary on two counts.

First, mills would require substantial cash flows during the time when payments are to be made to growers against cane purchases.

In the current high interest rate regime, it makes sense to minimise dependence on borrowed working capital and generate sufficient internal liquidity, which is possible only with reasonable realisations from sugar.

The need for a better cash position would be even more for mills in Uttar Pradesh in the context of Assembly elections early next year.

Bajaj Hindusthan: this sugar producer has a sour edge

Bajaj Hindusthan Ltd's announcement of a rights issue at a price of Rs. 36 a share, or a discount of 33% to the prevailing price, cheered investors initially. The stock gained about 3% intraday on Tuesday.

But the company's shares could not hold on to these gains, and ended the day down by about 1.9%. Some of this could be attributed to the drop in the markets in the latter half of the trading session. But shareholders may have also balked at the forthcoming equity dilution.

The rights issue was a known event and also that Bajaj Hindusthan intends to rise up to Rs. 2,000 crore through equity funding. The company plans to raise about Rs. 1,644 crore through this issue, and the steep discount means it will sell two shares for each held to raise this amount.

'Sugar industry willing to top up wages for rural job scheme'

In a bid to curb the rising farm labour shortage, the Confederation of Indian Industry has called for integration of farming with the rural job scheme - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).

"Farm labour should be included in MNREGA and the Government should subsidise mechanisation of sugarcane farming," said Ms Rajshree Pathy, Vice-Chairperson, CII National Committee on Sugar. Ms Pathy was delivering the keynote address at the CII National Seminar on Sugar Machinery Industry.

Unable to deal with the labour shortage and rising wages, sugarcane farmers are switching to crops such as coconut, Ms Pathy said. She reiterated the demand for de-control of the sugar sector.

CII seminar deliberates on challenges faced in exports of sugar machinery

Sugar machinery industry is reflective of the Indian manufacturing panorama with huge opportunities in exports to regions such as Latin America and Africa, adopting energy-efficient means of production and a growing domestic demand.

This was stated by K B Pranesh, chairman, sugar machinery division and managing director, Fives Cail-KCP Ltd, while addressing the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) national seminar on Sugar Machinery Industry, in New Delhi, on Thursday.

Pranesh outlined various challenges currently faced by the sugar machinery manufacturers which included absence of credit lines and financing for exports to the required extent, hampering exports, especially to countries in Africa, which have huge demand.

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Stating that labour shortage was becoming acute, Ms Pathy said the industry was willing to pay farm workers in addition to the MNREGA wages.

Farm labour shortage is more pronounced in southern States such as Tamil Nadu that are more industrialised. Farm wages in key sugarcane growing States have seen an increase from about 15 per cent in Uttar Pradesh to as high as 43.35 per cent in Punjab in the past year. Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have seen a farm wage increase of 36, 35 and 22 per cent respectively in the past year.

Farmers fetch more selling sugarcane as fodder

Bountiful rainfall, along with good sugarcane harvest in the last two years, has led to some unexpected consequences in Maharashtra.

Sugarcane is fetching more money as cattlefeed, than when sold to sugar factories.

Farmers in districts like Aurangabad, Sangli and Jalna are selling their cane to cattle-feed producers at Rs 2,200 a tonne, while the going rate of sugar factories is Rs 1,800 a tonne, a senior Maharashtra Government official told *Business Line*.

Natural sweetener stevia clears its first hurdle

For the growing number of calorie conscious-consumers, who would prefer a more natural alternative to sugar, there could be good news. A scientific panel for food additives at the apex Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the regulatory body which makes rules for food safety, has recommended the use of stevia, a natural sweetener for use in carbonated water, soft drink concentrates, chewing gums and table-top sweeteners.

Sugar To Encounter Selling At Higher Levels

Sugar futures are likely to witness some selling at higher levels as centre has raised the sugar stock limit by another six months along with strong sugar production estimates in the current year. The NCDEX sugar futures shaved off almost Rs. 3 per quintal in the last trading.

As per latest release from government sources, Centre has also extended the stock limit for sugar for two months till November 30.

Moreover, the latest data release by Ministry of Agriculture stated that the total sowing acreage of sugar cane augmented by almost 2.79 lakh hectares to 51.81 lakh hectares. This was due to steady rainfall in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab. This might witness the strong production of around 26.2 million tonnes in 2011-12 against 24.2 million tonnes that were estimated in 2010-11.

India sugar output to rise to record 26 mn tonnes

India is expected to produce close to 26 mn tonnes of sugar for the sugar season starting Oct 1. This may result in government lifting curbs on exports of the commodity and also dampen futures prices at the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange of India.

Sugar production may total 25.83 mn metric tonnes, according to a compilation of estimates by sugar cane commissioners of 10 states including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, Bloomberg reported.

Currently, the supplies have fallen from the largest sugar producer, Brazil, thus providing some support to futures prices. At National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange of India, Sugar M Grade October contract has fallen from Rs 2799 to Rs 2755 last week. It has further fallen to Rs 2747 a quintal on Tuesday afternoon trade.

Eastern States' purchases sweeten sugar

Spot sugar prices witnessed a firm trend on Wednesday on continued buying support at upper level. Mill tender rates rose by Rs 10-12 a quintal as fresh buying from eastern-side buyers along with improvement in State-level demand buoyed the sentiment.

In line with firm tender rates, naka prices gained. Spot rates increased by Rs 2-5. A Vashi-based wholesaler said that on Tuesday evening Maharashtra's mills sold nearly one lakh bags (each of 100 kg) through tender offers. Good buying by State and upcountry-level stockists pushed up prices. Freight rates were steady after a small rise in last two days in Baramati line. Tuesday's decision by the Empowered Group of Ministers to extend the stock limit by two months did not any impact on the market sentiment. Traders now await the announcement of October free sale quota as *Diwali* will be celebrated next month. Changes in quota quantity will decide the market

direction. Bulk buyers such as confectionery and sweet makers are buying sugar in advance to meet the demand for their products, traders said.

Sugar industry, Maha govt fresh plea to Centre

The sugar industry and Maharashtra government on Thursday made a fresh appeal to the Centre for the abolition of levy sugar, especially when the sugar manufacturing scenario in the country has undergone considerable change and the country is now having superfluous sugar production and barring exception exporting it consistently.

This apart, they have also urged the Centre for an early settlement of levy sugar price differential claims, revision of levy sugar prices and levy sugar transportation cost. In an interactive meeting with Minister for Food KV Thomas, state Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan argued the Centre might purchase the sugar required for public distribution scheme from the open market.

The state government said it was obligatory on the party of sugar factories to provide levy sugar as per ratio fixed by the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

India sugar production forecast at 24.6 mn tons, weakens NCDEX futures

Sugar futures at National Commodity and Derivative exchange (NCDEX) may weaken further on marginal increase in production forecast for 2011-12 season beginning October.

This is 1.2 per cent more than this year's output, According to Food Minister K V Thomas, area under sugarcane in 2011-2012 was expected to be 5.02 million hectares, up 1.6 per cent from last year

Sugar futures have fallen .92% last week and continue to trade down. The commodity traded at Rs 2718 down by 0.80% at 16.00 hrs IST on Thursday at NCDEX.

Meanwhile, in global futures market, sugar has fallen as Brazil's sugar harvest is reported up by 5% to 29.5 million tons which is further easing the concern over the shortage of supply.

Small sugar eases on low buying

Small sugar prices moved down slightly at the Vashi wholesale market here today on reduced domestic offtake amid higher stock positions.

On the other hand, medium variety showed a mixed pattern of trading owing to alternate bouts of buying and selling.

Small sugar (S-30) softened to Rs 2,766/2,851 per quintal from its overnight close of Rs 2,768/2,851.

Medium Sugar (M-30) was quoted at Rs 2,846/2,981 per quintal as compared to Rs 2,826/2,986 yesterday.

The following are today's closing rates for sugar (per quintal), with the previous rates given in brackets:

Small sugar (S-30) quality: Rs 2,766/2,851 (Rs 2,768/ 2,851).

Medium sugar (M-30) quality: Rs 2,846/2,981 (Rs 2,826/ 2,986).

Govt to plan new sugar policy for 2011-12, look into onion exports: Thomas

With regard to sugar prices, the government is planning a new policy on sugar for 2011-12, according to K V Thomas, minister of state (independent charge) for consumer affairs, food and public distribution.

He was speaking at the third conference on negotiable warehouse receipt system (NWRS), organised by Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WRDA) along with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), which was held on Friday, in Mumbai.

ISMA pegs Maha, UP sugar output at 16 mn tones

The apex industry body of sugar sector, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has estimated sugar production of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh together at 16 million tonnes in 2011-12 marketing year starting next month.

This is about 1.2 million tonnes higher than the government's projection. Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are the country's top two sugar producing states. Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), which compiled production estimate for next season on September 22, has pegged the sugar output of Maharashtra at a record 9.3 million tonnes in the next marketing year.

However, Maharashtra's sugar output is estimated at only 8.57 million tonnes by the food ministry, whose data is based on the meeting of the cane commissioners of 10 major producing states held on September 20.

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The sugar industry and Maharashtra government on Thursday made a fresh appeal to the Centre for the abolition of levy sugar, especially when the sugar manufacturing

scenario in the country has undergone considerable change and the country is now having superfluous sugar production and barring exception exporting it consistently.

This apart, they have also urged the Centre for an early settlement of levy sugar price differential claims, revision of levy sugar prices and levy sugar transportation cost. In an interactive meeting with Minister for Food KV Thomas, state Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan argued the Centre might purchase the sugar required for public distribution scheme from the open market.

Food ministry vetting sugar output estimates

Days after Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar contested the sugar output estimates given by the food ministry, its boss K V Thomas said efforts are being taken to “reconcile” the figures.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, the food minister said he was aware of “some difference” on preliminary estimates of sugar production. “Efforts are on to reconcile the figures,” he added.

The food ministry had last week pegged the output for the new sugar season beginning October at 24.6 million tonnes – lower than the industry’s projection of around 26 million tonnes. In the current year, 24.3 million tonnes sugar were produced.

Sugarcane crushing in state to remain flat in 2011-12

Even as the sugarcane crushing season starts from next month, sugar millers expect cane crushing in the state likely to remain flat in the current year.

As per the estimates provided by the sugar industry players, sugarcane crushing in the state this year is likely to remain flat at 13-13.5 million tonnes. “Cane crushing by all the co-operative sugar factories in Gujarat is seen flat this year. The stagnancy in sugarcane crushing can be attributed to the fact that there was no increase in sugarcane plantation in 2011-12,” Dilip Bhakta, chairman, Madhi Sugar Factory.

Sugarcane in Gujarat is mainly planted on irrigated land and there has been no rise in the acreage, which stood more or less at around 200,000 hectares. Good monsoon in cane growing regions of Gujarat ruled out fears of a sharp decline in the acreage of the crop.

According to Bhakta, cane yield too is likely to remain unchanged at 70-72 tonnes per hectare in Gujarat this season. Meanwhile, the government gives a conservative estimate of cane crushing this year at 12.5 million tonnes lower by about a million tonnes against the industry’s estimate of around 13 million tonnes.

Mixed trend in sugar market

S-grade sugar lost Rs 4-5 in the spot market while M-grade remained unchanged.

S-grade remained unchanged in the *naka* delivery market while M-grade rose by Rs 10-15 despite limited selling by resellers. Mill tender rates were unchanged as local demand remained need-based. Enquiries from neighbouring states were absent. Sugar prices have remained range-bound for three weeks now despite festival days as demand has matched supplies, said Mr Mukesh Kuwadia, Secretary of Bombay Sugar Merchants Association. Higher output in the current year, likelihood of record output in the next season and carryover stocks have checked stock-buying and the market is awaiting the announcement of free-sale quote for the next month, he added.

Sugar mills Oct quota set at 1.9 mt

India, the world's largest sugar consumer, asked domestic mills to sell 1.997 million tonne of the commodity in October.

Sales next month will include 1.75 million tonne of sugar under the so-called non-levy quota, the food ministry said in an e-mailed statement on Wednesday.

Exporters to ship 4 lakh tonne soya meal.

Indian exporters have signed contracts to ship 4,00,000 tonne of the oilseed meal for delivery between October and January, a processors' group said. The animal feed was sold at \$365 a tonne to \$400 a tonne free- on-board basis, mainly to Japan and Korea, Rajesh Agrawal, spokesman for the Soybean Processors Association of India, said.

Govt releases 19.97 lakh tonne sugar for October

The government has decided to make available 19.97 lakh tonnes of sugar for the month of October this year.

The sugar released includes 2.47 lakh tonnes of levy sugar and 17.50 tonnes of non-levy (free sale) sugar, an official statement said here today.

This quantity is sufficient to meet the internal demand of sugar for the month of October, 2011, it added.

In October, India would be celebrating festivals like Dussehra and Diwali.

The sugar factory shall sell/deliver and dispatch the entire non-levy quantity released for the month of October, 2011, only within the validity period of the release order that is up to October 31, it said.

Recently, Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar had said the government was considering an increase in the percentage of levy sugar to make more sugar available through the public distribution system.

At present, sugar mills are required to provide 10% of their total production as levy sugar.

Sugar industry wants to export; govt apprehensive of price spurt

Just ahead of the festive when the demand for sugar is at its peak, the industry has escalated its demand for allowing export of the commodity, basing its arguments on availability of surplus stocks

This is likely to lead to a spurt in prices, especially with the Maharashtra government all set to pay higher prices to farmers in the key cane producing state, as reported yesterday.

Claiming that exports will not effect retail prices of the essential commodity, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said the government should allow export of at least 4 million tonnes of sugar under the open general licence.

This too, should start from the beginning of the new sugar season, in October. They say that the season is expected to open with an estimated opening stock of 5.8 MT.

India govt not averse to sugar decontrol: Food Minister

India Government is not averse to decontrol of Sugar provided the alternate system is acceptable to all stakeholders, said India's food minister K.V. Thomas.

Release mechanism and levy obligation are exercised by the government to control sugar in India. In the open market, sugar is being sold subject to the directives from the Directorate of sugar in the Union govt.

Release orders are issued every month and the mills are given a sales quota. Mills cannot sell above this quota. Worse, the mills get a penalty if they fail to sell the quota within the stipulated time.

Truck shortage pushes up spot sugar

Increased local demand and demand from other States helped sugar extended gains made on Wednesday by Rs 10-15 a quintal on Thursday.

Higher freight rates because of shortage of trucks in producing centres such as Kolhapur and Satara, lifted prices in the physical market. Demand rose at the mill level as producers are reluctant to sell at lower prices. Mill tender rates increased by Rs 10-12 a quintal.

The 17.5 lakh tonnes of sugar allocated by the Centre for sale in the open market in October is against 17 lakh tonnes for September. This is the same as in October last year when sugar reached a high of Rs 2,730-2,761 a quintal. Trade sources said the October quota this year is enough to meet the festival demand.

India to reap bumper grains, sugar crop after normal monsoon

India's monsoon rains are tapering off at the end of a normal four-month season, leaving behind farms full of rice, cane and cotton that could help the country curb high food prices and leave plenty of grain and sugar for exports in 2011/12.

India, the world's second-biggest rice, cotton and sugar producer, is on track to cultivate a record 245 million tonnes of grains in the current crop year to June, up 1.4 percent from a year ago. The bumper crop will help reduce price volatility and bring relief to several Asian importers who are trying to combat food-led inflation.

Sugar down on higher output hopes

Sugar futures fell by 0.37% to Rs 2,721 per quintal today as speculators reduced their position on off-loading of positions by speculators amid hopes of a marginal rise in its output this crushing season.

However, rise in spot demand due to the ongoing festivals limited the losses.

The November delivery fell by Rs 5, or 0.18%, to Rs 2,708 per quintal, with an open interest of 4,710 lots.

Analysts said the sugar futures prices fell after speculators reduced their positions amid higher output this season, but rise in demand for the sweetener on account of the festive season capped the losses.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY

Europe Heading for 'Giant Sugar Crop' in 2011-12, Licht Says

Aug. 31 (Bloomberg) -- Europe is heading for a "giant sugar crop," with production rising in the European Union, Ukraine and almost doubling in Russia, according to F.O. Licht GmbH.

Sugar to Drop as Europe, India Boost Supplies, Kingsman Says

Aug. 30 (Bloomberg) -- Sugar prices may drop at least 13 percent by early next year as an increase in supplies from Europe and Asia counter a drop in production in Brazil, according to broker and researcher Kingsman SA.

Zambia: Kafue Sugar, NMC Partner to Boost Sales

CONSOLIDATED Farming Limited, producer of Kafue Sugar, has signed a commercial agreement with National Milling Corporation Limited (NMC) in which the milling firm will market and distribute sugar under its brand-name to improve sales.

Nigeria: Dangote Group Votes N900 Billion for Agriculture

DANGOTE Group has announced its willingness to invest N900 billion in the Nigerian economy within the next one year. A statement by the company said that the fund would be used to develop and improve the agricultural sector.

Kenya: Traders Mill At Sony Sugar As Scarcity Bites

Queues of cargo trucks are lengthening each day at Sony Sugar Company premises as sugar scarcity intensifies.

Uganda: Fake Sugar On Sale in Uganda

THE Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has warned the public against fake sugar currently on the market.

Nail attacks sour sugar transport

North Queensland police say they are worried about several attempts to disable sugar haulage trucks.

Proserpine sugar mill future in limbo

The future of one of Australia's largest sugar mills remains unclear after a failed takeover bid.

Guj sugar coops to supply 17.5 mn litres ethanol to OMCs

Sugar co-operatives from Gujarat are likely to bid for about 17.5 million litres of ethanol to supply to public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) during the new

sugar year that starts from October 2011. The OMCs have floated tenders to purchase over 1 billion litres of ethanol from sugar industry for blending.

British Sugar set for first strike in 30 years

Unite the union says that British Sugar is likely to see its first strikes in 30 years from early October

There should be an inquiry into the Skeldon sugar factory

The time has come for an investigation to be conducted into the Skeldon sugar factory. There should be a special investigative committee of independent, technical persons, to investigate why the factory cannot operate as it was designed to do after the completion. The Minister of Agriculture should appoint the committee in consultation with the two unions which are representing workers in the industry. Unless some action is taken against those who are responsible for the failure of this factory, the sugar industry will continue to suffer. The losers will always be the ordinary workers and taxpayers.

"Land grabs" mar Cambodia's boom, rattle investors

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - Kong Song's farmland was his family's livelihood for three decades until the bulldozers moved in and tore down his home in rural Cambodia to make way for a multimillion dollar foreign-led business.

Singapore's Olam Buys Hemarus Industries In \$74M Deal

Singapore-listed Olam International Ltd, a supplier of agri and food commodities, is acquiring Hemarus Industries Ltd at an enterprise valuation of \$73.8 million or Rs 340 crore. The deal involves a cash payment of \$8 million and part assumption of debt of approximately \$66 million upon completion for the Hyderabad-based firm.

ACP countries to lobby for Fiji

ACP countries will approach the European Union asking it to reconsider its decision of suspending all aid to the sugar industry in Fiji.

Nigeria: Bachama Elders Beg Dangote to Re-Open Savannah Sugar

Yola Stakeholders in Bachama Kingdom of Adamawa State have expressed concern over the closure of Savannah Sugar Company in which over 5,000 workers lost their jobs and urged for the re-opening of the company.

Tanzania Sugar Costs Increase On Shortage, Daily News Newspaper Reports

The cost of sugar in Tanzania has increased as factories suspend production of the sweetener, Daily News reported, citing Castor Raphael, Chairman Tanzania Sugar Board.

The European Union's sugar-beet crop, the world's largest, will be the biggest in six years

The European Union's sugar-beet crop, the world's largest, will be the biggest in six years, at a time when Nestle SA and other food companies say supplies are running short.

CANEFARMERS SEEK FINANCING FOR PURCHASE OF SUGAR MILL

The Belize Sugar Industries may face foreclosure by September 30 if it does not receive a bail out of 30 million us dollars it owes to ING Bank. While negotiations for a buyout is well underway with Honduran , Banco Atlantida, The Belize Sugar Cane Farmers association has been busy trying to secure financing to have a stake in becoming the owner of the controlling interest in BSI. Alfredo Ortega is the Chairman of the BSCFA's Committee of Management.

Colombian sugar maker to open ethanol plant in 2013

Bogota, 30 August (Argus) Colombia's largest sugar producer, Riopaila Castilla, has jumped into the biofuels business, announcing plans to build an ethanol distillery capable of producing 300,000 l/d (1,900 b/d).

GuySuCo's several strategic plans never admitted a dearth of competencies to manage the Skeldon factory

This truism is most applicable to the press release regarding GuySuCo's Skeldon flagship' (turned shipwreck) being refloated' by a choice of either Indian or Chinese contractors, who have been specifically identified for assignment to a lifeboat.

Sen. Lugar tours Indiana to rally support for sugar reform bill

Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) has been touring Indiana as part of a campaign calling for reform of US sugar policy, which he says keeps sugar prices artificially high and costs US jobs

Sugar mill rejects \$115m takeover offer

A Singapore-based company has failed in a bid to take over the Proserpine Sugar mill in north Queensland.

Proserpine Sugar Mill members reject foreign takeover bid

Members of the Proserpine Sugar Mill have voted to reject a \$115 million bid to save the ailing north Queensland miller.

No regrets as QSL chairman Alan Winney steps aside

As the sugar industry grapples with the effect of last year's shortfall in marketing supply contracts, the release of a report into what went wrong is only days away.

Queens visit sugar mill

THE noisy and hectic cane crushing area of Labasa was filled with excitement when the Vodafone Friendly North contestants visited yesterday.

Uganda: Sugar Cane Versus the Mabira Forest

Parts of Uganda's Mabira forest need to be cut down in order to grow sugar cane, says the Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni. It is his solution to the country's sugar shortage. But the Mabira issue is extremely sensitive in Uganda and has proved lethal in the past.

Nigeria: Dangote Sugar Records N48.6 Billion Turnover

Dangote Sugar Plc has declared a turnover of N46.8 billion in the second quarter of the year

Kenya: Sugarcane Farmers Issue Strike Threat

Sugarcane growers in Busia County have threatened to stop cane deliveries over a disputed parcel of land.

Kenya: Sugarcane Farmers Demo Called Off

The sugarcane farmer's demonstration set for today in Busia and Nairobi has been called off

Kenya: Middlemen to Blame for Sugar Shortage - Nzoia Sugar

Nzoia Sugar Company has blamed the rising cost of sugar on unscrupulous businessmen

Tanzania bans export of sugar as shortage hits EA neighbours

TANZANIA HAS banned the export of sugar to protect its domestic stock, testing its commitment to open trade in the region as other East African Community states battle a biting sugar deficit.

20 companies cleared to import sugar

The Trade ministry has cleared 20 Ugandan registered companies to import duty free sugar. The companies will receive tax waivers as soon as they declare the volume of sugar they have imported.

Sugar makers seek investment

HCM CITY The Viet Nam Sugar and Sugarcane Association (VSSA) has proposed several measures to improve the sustainability and management of the domestic sugar industry.

Global meeting to push for sugar reforms

NEW DELHI: Reform of India's tightly controlled sugar sector will top the agenda of an international conference kicking off on September 5, as traders and analysts call for changes to allow the country to become a regular exporter, competing with top producer Brazil.

September good for sugar cane sowing

LAHORE (APP) - The Punjab Agriculture Department informed the sugar cane growers on Sunday that for good production, farmers must choose heavy loam soil.

Bumper beet crop on the cards for Norfolk's

And given further sunshine, further significant growth is expected ahead of the official start of the latest processing campaign on Wednesday, September 14.

American Crystal ready to start harvest with replacement workers

MOORHEAD, Minn. - With the lockout of about 1,300 American Crystal Sugar Co. workers entering its second month and no negotiations in sight, the company is ready to start the harvest season with inexperienced replacement workers.

Bittersweet harvest

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia's burgeoning sugar industry has appeared a sweet deal to both local and international investors of late. Allegations of land-grabbing and human rights abuses now dogging producers, however, have left many people souring on the sector.

Bangor Castle recreated in sugar cubes

Bangor native Brendan Jamison has already gained world-wide attention for his work in various unusual media and is now bringing his work closer to home.

No room for sugar monopoly - Kyambadde

The Trade and Industry Minister, Ms Amelia Kyambadde, yesterday said government will no longer allow monopoly in the sugar industry. The country is currently facing a sugar crisis, with sugar prices now standing at between Shs6,000 to Shs8,000 per kilogramme from Shs2,000 and Shs2,500 a kilogramme, about two months back.

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Imperial Sugar Will Be Helped By America's Sweet Tooth

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Huge supplies of Sugar in the domestic markets is capping the gains at higher levels, while good demand ahead of festivals is supporting prices at lower levels.

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Sugar mills pay farmers R41,000 cr

New Delhi: Sugar mills paid nearly R41,000 crore to sugarcane farmers till June 15 of the 2010-11 marketing year, ending this month, while dues of R1,656 crore were outstanding, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Kingsman Sugar Conference in New Delhi

The global sugar surplus is now expected to be 9.161 million tonnes in 2011/12, slipping more than 13 percent from an earlier estimate because of lower output from top producer Brazil, the Kingsman consultancy said at its 3rd Indian Sugar Summit.

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Egypt to establish \$400m sugar plant in Port Said

Port Said Governor General Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed has announced that Egypt's biggest sugar refinery plant from sugar beet will be built in the governorate, Ahram has reported. The new factory will cost up to \$400m, and will have a capacity of 500,000 tonnes per annum. Investment bank Beltone Financial has said that all funds invested in the plant will be Egyptian, although no entities or institutions have been named.

Only days till Proserpine Sugar Mill decision

The fate of the debt-ridden Proserpine Sugar Mill in north Queensland will be decided by the end of the week.

Guyana bank says gold, rice, sugar driving economy

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) Guyana's central bank says the country's economy grew by nearly 6 percent for the first half of 2011 because of improved production of gold, rice and sugar.

Fiji Sugar Corporation ships more sugar to Tate & Lyle

THE Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) is now making its second shipment to Tate & Lyle with a cargo vessel which is already loading sugar in Labasa, the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation has reported

Use it, says State

THE Ministry of Sugar is calling on cane growers to take advantage of the interest-free Cane Development Revolving Fund that Government has made available for replanting farmers.

Uganda: Simmering Tension Over Forest Give-Away

Kampala A plan to replace a large swathe of protected rainforest in Uganda with sugarcane could lead to further civil unrest in a year when nine people have been killed during strikes and protests against the rising cost of living.

Uganda: House Reduces Tax On Sugar

PARLIAMENT on Tuesday passed a Bill exempting excise tax on paraffin, and reducing tax on sugar by Sh25.

Uganda: Buwenge Youth's Tough Struggle to Make Sugar

IT looked like magic; sugarcane molasses crystallised into sugar overnight in a down pour. For several years, Fred Ndhote and Ronald Muyingo had been struggling to process molasses into sugar crystals.

No Room for Sugar Monopoly - Kyambadde

Mukono, Sep 07, 2011 (The Monitor/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Trade and Industry Minister, Ms Amelia Kyambadde, yesterday said government will no longer allow monopoly in the sugar industry.

Tanzania: State Set to Import 120,000t of Sugar

Dar es Salaam The government has moved to contain the crippling sugar shortage in the country. The decision was announced yesterday that the government will import 120,000 tonnes of the commodity.

FSC prepares second sugar shipment: Khan

The Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) is preparing to ship out 30,000 tonnes of sugar from its mills on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu

Sugar cane farmers hope to salvage crop after Tropical Storm Lee

The storm is just the latest challenge facing the state's sugar cane industry, which has an annual \$2.5 billion economic impact on Louisiana. This year's crop alone has a cash value of nearly \$900 million.

Sugar beet harvest begins with replacement workers

American Crystal Sugar is now bringing in roughly 10% of its sugar beet crop, but this year's pre-pile harvest is different. Hundreds of Union Workers are picketing outside factories as hundreds of temporary and replacement employees get to work. Tonight, we talk to two of American Crystal's newest hires who are crossing the picket lines.

Changes ahead for Queensland sugar marketing

Queensland's cane farmers are being promised more communication from the sugar marketer, a new range of options for selling their produce and a better crop forecasting system, after a review of the industry.

Row brews over sugar refinery's chimney

A bid to demolish a cracked chimney at the Chelsea Sugar Refinery is being opposed on grounds that it is part of the Birkenhead site's high heritage value.

Tanzania bans sugar exports in an attempt to cool prices

TANZANIA has banned sugar exports in a series of measures to tame spiralling prices that have fuelled inflation in east Africa's second-biggest economy, local media said on Wednesday.

Kenya: Mumias Suspends Sale of Sugar to Local Farmers At Reduced Prices

Mumias Sugar Company has stopped direct sale of sugar to local farmers. This means the farmers will have to dig deeper into their pockets to buy sugar. The company said took the move after realising that some farmers have been colluding with retailers to buy and later sell sugar at inflated prices.

EU restates conditions for resuming Fiji aid

The European Commission President says Fiji will have to return to democracy before it can start receiving millions of dollars in funding for the sugar industry again.

CACP moots 17% hike in cane price

New Delhi: The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has suggested a more than 17% increase in the benchmark sugarcane price to around R170 a quintal for the marketing year starting October 2012 to encourage farmers to boost planting for higher sugar production.

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Guyana bank says gold, rice, sugar driving economy

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) Guyana's central bank says the country's economy grew by nearly 6 percent for the first half of 2011 because of improved production of gold, rice and sugar.

Fiji Sugar Corporation ships more sugar to Tate & Lyle

THE Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) is now making its second shipment to Tate & Lyle with a cargo vessel which is already loading sugar in Labasa, the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation has reported

Use it, says State

THE Ministry of Sugar is calling on cane growers to take advantage of the interest-free Cane Development Revolving Fund that Government has made available for replanting farmers.

AB Foods reports progress in second-half sugar revenues

Silver Spoon Sugar owner Associated British Foods said adjusted operating profit for the second half to 17th September will be in line with expectations. Adjusted earnings for the year are expected to be similar to last year's.

Another vote required for Proserpine Sugar Mill

Members of the Proserpine Sugar Mill will vote on a takeover bid by Singapore-based Sucrogen for a second time.

Wilmar International Unit To Make Second Offer For Proserpine Sugar

SINGAPORE -(Dow Jones)- Singapore-listed Wilmar International Ltd. (F34.SG) Monday said Sucrogen, its wholly-owned Australian sugar unit, signed an agreement with Proserpine Co-operative Sugar Milling Association that will allow the unit to make a second offer for the sweetener producer.

Golden Grove Sugar Experiment

Golden Grove Sugar Company has acquired re-engineered varieties of sugar cane that it hopes will grow the yield from its crops and eliminate hundreds of millions in losses already visited on the year-old operation.

Coveney keen to revive sugar beet industry despite department cuts

THE prospects for reviving the sugar beet industry received a boost at the Agricultural Science Association annual conference in Maynooth yesterday.

Sugar could be produced again, says Minister

IRELAND COULD be producing sugar and ethanol again when the European Commission ends its current quota system in 2016, the Agricultural Science Association annual conference in Maynooth heard yesterday.

Standard Bank sees sugar output growth in Africa

South Africa's Standard Bank expects sugar production in Africa to grow, supported by increased demand and firmer prices, its head of investment banking said.

Egypt to build \$400 mln sugar refinery

CAIRO: A sugar beet refinery to be built in Port Said at a cost of \$400 million will have a capacity of 500,000 tons of sugar a year, making it the country's largest sugar refinery.

Chiefs back sugar

FIVE chiefs in the Western Division have pledged their support for the revival of the sugar industry.

Plans for port

Government has embarked on plans to reform the cruise facilities in Barbados for the country to remain relevant and capitalise on the opportunities available from cruise tourism.

New deal renews hope for Kwale Sugar Company

Barely a fortnight after President Kibaki told Kwale Sugar International Company Limited (Kiscol) to hasten work to commissioning a sugar milling plant, a Mauritian firm has partnered with Kiscol to establish the plant.

Jamaica Caught In Cycle Of Import Dependency

The majority of Jamaicans should be alert to statements made by the private sector that if business persons are not satisfied with the proposed tax revision, they will move their money elsewhere.

BSI MANAGEMENT SAYS BSCFA LEADERS ARE MISLEADING FARMERS

On Tuesday Cabinet said five entities had expressed an interest in purchasing the sugar mill at BSI. One of those groups is the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association. The leadership of the Association has been vocal in terms of the financiers it has been having discussions with. Today the management of Belize Sugar Industries issued a release in which it states that a number of inaccurate statements are being circulated.

Western Chiefs support sugar industry revival

Chiefs in the western division have thrown their full support behind the revival of the sugar industry.

At one time the Guyana sugar industry was recognized as the training institution for other sugar-growing countries

I have been bombarded from some expected, and other not so expected quarters, with commentaries and observations on my letter to SN of August 30, 2011 regarding the reported impotency of GuySuCo's current personnel to manage and operate the Skeldon complexity' as perceived by the Minister of Agriculture. Most, if not all, of the commentators, constituted vital institutional memory of the Guyana sugar industry's historical capacity for training and development not only of its own human resources, but those of counterpart organisations, locally and around the world. Their reminders are worth sharing, not only with all those who have been seeing and hearing, from various distances, about the industry's depreciation (at an exponential rate); but more particularly with those newly initiated to direct, manage and operate the various components of its operations.

Ethiopia Building 10 New Sugar Plants to Become Leading Exporter

Sept. 13 (Bloomberg) -- Sugar Corp., Ethiopia's state-owned producer, said it started building 10 new factories and is inviting private investment as part of a plan to become one of the world's 10 biggest exporters of the crop.

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Sugar, corn syrup makers in bitter clash

Like any parent, the dad says in the television commercial, he was concerned about high fructose corn syrup. But medical and nutrition experts reassured him that, in essence, it's the same as cane sugar.

Bad weather crushes sugar harvest

Halfway through the crushing season, Queensland's sugar production has again been revised down.

Police Say Union Supporters Using Racial Slurs at Sugar Plant

Police say union supporters have directed racial slurs and racist symbols at replacement workers and security personnel outside an American Crystal Sugar plant in North Dakota

High hopes for sugar beet harvest

Lifting has started two weeks earlier than usual ahead of factories opening on Wednesday 14 September. Farmers are taking advantage of the early start to get beet out of the ground.

Sweet times: Sugar beet trucks hitting the roads tomorrow

MONITOR TWP. Roads across Bay, Tuscola and Huron counties will soon be busy with trucks carrying loads of the season's first sugar beet deliveries

Fiji: Not much effort to convince EU to restore sugar funding

The plight of over 200,000 of our people continues to hang in the balance as the Fiji government has not taken any credible steps to convince the European Union to restore the \$200 million in assistance which includes funds earmarked for the Sugar industry reforms.

Tully Sugar considering making another bid for Prosperpine mill

Chinese-owned Tully Sugar is considering whether to put forward another bid for the Prosperpine Sugar Mill, after the co-operative's board rejected its bid in favour of an amended Sucrogen offer.

ABF results: Sugar sweet, ingredients disappoint

Sugar profits are well ahead of last year and better than expected, according to a trading statement from Associated British Foods (ABF)

British Sugar strike moves closer as relations sour

Relations are worsening between Unite the union and British Sugar as strike action looms at four British Sugar sites.

ABF Performance Boosted by Sugar Profits

Sugar revenues made further progress in the second half driven by strong improvements in both China and Spain more than offsetting the absence of export sales from the UK and lower sales in South Africa.

Disappointing year for ABF ingredients, note analysts

Analysts estimate that the ingredients division of Associated British Foods (ABF) is likely to have a tough second half in line with the lacklustre operating performance in the first six months

Mauritius: Sugar Firm to Set Base Base in Kenya

A leading Mauritian sugar producer Omnicane plans to start construction of a Sh16.2 billion (\$180 million) sugar factory in Kenya by October, just as the country faces a shortage of the sweetener which has more than doubled in price recently. Kenyans consume about 750,000 tonnes of sugar a year, according to the Kenya Sugar Research Foundation, but only produces 500,000 tonnes a year.

USDA lowers forecast for domestic sugar supplies

THE USDA reduced its forecast on Monday for domestic sugar supplies in the 2011/12 marketing year.

Sugar amelioration amendments to give sacadas' better benefits

Department of Labor and Employment Secretary, Rosalinda Baldoz, said Saturday sugar workers, including itinerant sacada (cane cutters and haulers), are now covered by the amended implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 6982, or the Sugar Amelioration Act of 1991, a government press release said.

Many problems irk sugar production industry

The sugar production industry is presently facing some hiccups by way of lack of communication between sugar cane farmers and factory owners, no control of sugar smuggling and a misguided development growth plan.

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A LOT has been said about the proposal to give part of Mabira forest (18%) to Scoul to increase their production. The environmentalists have been the most vocal on the proposal. We need a well informed debate. The issue at play is we need more sugar production.

UP prepares for cane crushing season

Sugarcane acreage estimated to rise over 2.2 million hectares in 2011-12.

Proserpine businesses, cane growers sweat on proposed sale of town's sugar mill

TENSIONS remain high in Proserpine as the sale of Queensland's only remaining cooperative sugar mill drags on.

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Fitch Ratings has come out with its report on Uttam Sugar Mills . The rating agency has downgraded India-based Uttam Sugar Mills Limited's (USML) National Long-Term Rating to 'Fitch D(ind)' from 'Fitch B(ind)'.

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Work at the Chemelil Sugar Company were yesterday paralysed for the whole day after irate workers went on strike demanding removal of the managing director.

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FG to restore normalcy in Savannah Sugar Company

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Unite members at four British Sugar plants in the East of England will be balloted next week on industrial action, after the workforce rejected a 3.5 per cent pay offer.

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BP acquires additional shares in Brazilian sugar and ethanol producer

BP has agreed to acquire an additional three percent share of Brazilian sugar and ethanol producer Companhia Nacional de Acucar e Alcool (CNAA) from LDC Bioenergia for about \$25m.

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Members of the board of the BSI Employee Holdings Trust, the Belize Workers Union and the Belize Sugar Industries met with representatives of Banco Atlantida today to discuss the bank's interest in buying majority shares in the company. The meeting was scheduled to be held at the Atlantic Bank building but was initially delayed due to a bomb threat.

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Study on sugar industry 'positive'

A NEW feasibility study is expected to give the go ahead for a return to sugar production in Ireland, according to one Cork East TD.

Kenya: Nzoia Sugar Sues for Cane Sold to Mumias

The Nzoia sugar company yesterday said it will seek court redress over the decision by its contracted farmers to sale sugarcane to its rival.

Tanzania: Govt Targets Massive Sugar Production

TANZANIA targets to become self sufficient in sugar production and big exporter in the next six to eight years, the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) said in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

Kenya: Chemelil in Sugar in Price Wars With Distributors

CONTRACTED distributors of Chemelil Sugar Company are up in arms with the management of the sugar company after the firm opted to increase the price contrary to the contracted sum.

Kenya: Mumias Sugar Boss Offers Safety Tips

Mumias Sugar company Managing Director Evans Kidero yesterday said he is ready to assist the City Council of Nairobi improve in its disaster preparedness.

Nigeria: Govt to Restore Normalcy in Savannah Sugar Company

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Canegrowers reeling from the big wet

AUSTRALIA'S 2011 sugar production has again been revised downwards at the halfway point of the crush.

Proserpine Sugar takeover bid intensifies

The board of Proserpine Sugar in north Queensland says it is considering two new multi-million-dollar offers for the milling cooperative.

Brazil targets China sugar market

LONDON: Russia's sugar output set to almost double year-on-year will push it off the scale as an importer, forcing top producer Brazil to turn to the fast-growing Chinese market.

Cargill wants Brazilian sugar mills

Cargill Inc. said Thursday it wants to buy sugar mills in Brazil and is considering expanding its cocoa operations in Asia, Reuters reports.

Hippo Valley on track

HIPPO Valley Estates Ltd is on track to achieve a sugar production target of between 150 000 tonnes to 170 000 tonnes this year, CEO Sydney Mtsambiwa has said. Mtsambiwa told shareholders at an AGM this week that at 95 887 tonnes, production this season was currently at 60% of forecasts.

FDA warns industry over 'corn sugar' label

FDA warns industry over 'corn sugar' label The Food and Drug Administration has cautioned the corn industry over its use of the term "corn sugar" to describe high fructose corn syrup before the proposed new name has received regulatory approval. The Corn Refiners Association is seeking permission to use "corn sugar" as an alternative name. FDA labeling director Barbara Schneeman wrote to the Corn Refiners Association saying she was concerned with two of the group's websites, both of which use the terms high fructose corn syrup and "corn sugar" interchangeably.

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Kenya: Ababu Slams Mumias Sugar

Mumias Sugar Company is no longer relevant to Busia county farmers in handling their sugarcane, Budalang'i MP Ababu Namwamba has said.

Uganda: Kinyara Supplies Power to Masindi

KINYARA Sugar Factory has started supplying power to Masindi town and the surrounding villages. This will ease load shedding by UMEME in the area.

Kenya: Two Councillor Ejected From Sugar Farm Meeting in Busia

A meeting called by the Busia District Commissioner Mwiandi Gitonga to resolve issues surrounding the controversial sale of a parcel of land belonging to the defunct Busia Sugar Company turned nasty yesterday when two councillors were forcefully ejected from the venue. Councillor Jack Wambulwa and of Walatsi ward and Josephat Wandera of Lugulu, were ordered out of the meeting by the DC when they demanded to address the gathering despite having not been invited.

Sugar falls on signs of bigger Brazilian harvest

Sugar prices plummeted 6.7 percent Friday on expectations that Brazil's production may be bigger than expected this year.

Tanzanian PM orders sugar probe

The Prime Minister, Mr Mizengo Pinda, has ordered state organs in Mara region to inspect all warehouses owned by businessmen engaged in sugar business.

Locked out American Crystal Sugar workers launch campaign to educate public

American Crystal Sugar has locked out 1,300 workers after they rejected its contract offer by a nine to one margin. Now, the workers, members of the Bakery, Confectionery Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union,

Promising start to Norfolk's sugar beet harvest

Farmers are enthusiastic about the amount of sugar beet which has been produced across the county as this year's harvest gets under way.

Bardney sugar factory to be demolished amid rising safety fears

DERELICT sugar factory buildings are to be almost completely demolished for safety reasons, ten years after they ceased production.

Attempt to protect agricultural lands struck down in court

A recent rule by the Turkish Constitutional Court puts an end to the 13-year long case between the US-based Cargill and local environmentalists. The firm's controversial sugar plant will poison the Lake İznik, environmentalist and lawyers say. The decision is likely to trigger devastation of agricultural land for the sake of industry

Mauritius a top business destination

Mauritius - frequently underestimated as just a tourism destination - was ranked first on the African continent in the 2011 World Bank's Doing Business report and among the world's top 20 destinations for doing business.

Q&A: Jonathan Kingsman, Chairman, Kingsman

Brazil, the world's biggest sugar producer, may see a sharp fall in output. India, the second-biggest producer, is ready to fill this gap. With its estimated production of 26 million tonnes, India could easily export 3 million tonnes. Jonathan Kingsman, chairman of Switzerland-based Kingsman, the world's top sugar consultancy and brokerage firm, speaks to Ajay Modi on the prospects of exports from India. Edited excerpts:

First production results confirm that France is in for a record sugar crop

France is likely to harvest around 94 tonnes of sugar beet per ha (with an average sugar content of 16%). This would be equivalent to a sugar yield of around 13.8 tonnes per ha, 0.2 tonnes more than in the previous record year in 2009. The big crop has prompted the industry to start slicing beet one week earlier than usual (on September 13 on average compared with September 20). As a result the campaign is forecast to last an average of 106 days. The first beets delivered to the factories were quite heavy weighing 827 g with an average sugar content of 17.75%, industry sources said.

Industry tries to sweeten the deal

SUGAR industry executives are planning to leverage near-record sugar prices to entice new growers into the region.

Support fund set up for locked-out sugar workers

ST. PAUL - The Minnesota AFL-CIO is collecting donations to help the 1,300 sugar industry workers and their families locked out of their jobs by American Crystal Sugar since Aug. 1.

Co-op sugar mill wants to raise funds through sale of shares

PUNE: The Shri Chhatrapati Shahu cooperative sugar factory in Kolhapur, which has won a national award for quality management practices, has asked the state cooperation commissioner if they can raise funds by selling their shares in the market.

Food Industry Pitted Against Public Health At U.N. Summit

How do you come up with a plan to help millions of people around the world avoid a chronic disease? For starters, don't treat the food companies that sell the products that contribute to those diseases as partners in the process. At least, that's what

public health advocates argue even as the accused companies say they're committed to making healthier products for the masses.

Leon Godchaux II, sugar and department-store businessman, dies at 94

Leon Godchaux II, a chemical engineer who ran the sugar and department-store businesses that his great-grandfather founded, died Tuesday at his New Orleans home. He was 94. In a career spanning nearly seven decades, Mr. Godchaux was president of four companies. During World War II, the Navy took advantage of Mr. Godchaux's training when it put him to work designing explosives, including a detonator that was considered -- but not used -- for the first atomic bomb, said his son, Leon "Lee" Godchaux III.

Zimbabwe: MDC-T Condemns Invasion of Chiredzi Buildings By 'Thugs'

The MDC-T has condemned the invasion of three buildings in Masvingo by ZANU PF youths, calling the illegal takeovers the actions of "misguided thugs."

Kenya: Sugar Firms Smile All the Way to the Bank

Sugar millers are raking in huge profits from spiralling prices as farmers grapple with low returns and high farm production costs.

Kenya: Government Considering Privatization of Sugar Industry

The price of sugar will continue on a high as the gap between production and consumption widens according to Agriculture PS Romano Kiome. He says the high sugar prices are being experienced internationally and is made worse by the high cost of production. He says the government is considering privatizing the sugar industry as part of reforming it.

Zimbabwe: Ethanol Plant to Serve 70 Percent Fuel Needs

THE massive Chisumbanje ethanol plant is sitting on one million litres of fuel produced in three weeks when production commenced.

Tanzania: Sugar Prices Stay High in Uganda

Kampala Even as sugar imports start to arrive in the country, Ugandans have continued to pay expensively for the commodity.

Sugar beet harvest begins

HURON COUNTY While the official beginning of fall is still more than a week away, many of the signs of the season are here.

Cargill plans major growth at Brazil sugar cane venture

Cargill Inc., the nation's largest closely held company, and Grupo USJ, a Brazilian sugar-cane processor, plan to triple sugar-cane processing capacity in the South American nation to 15 million metric tons by 2020.

Cane growers get lessons in getting and keeping workers

After a skilled worker shortage this year, cane growers in north Queensland are being encouraged to brush up on their recruiting skills before next year's harvest.

Canada changes stance on salt, sugar, fats in processed foods Read more:
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Canada+changes+stance+salt+sugar+fats+processed+foods/5427606/story.html#ixzz1YThqfutD>

Canada signed on to a United Nations declaration Monday to combat chronic diseases after dropping its objection to a key passage about developing ways to reduce the amount of salt, sugar and fats in processed foods. Read more:
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Canada+changes+stance+salt+sugar+fats+processed+foods/5427606/story.html#ixzz1YThry2RC>

Food manufacturing and processing industry issued stern warning

A stern warning has been issued to people in the food manufacturing and processing industry to reduce salt and sugar content in processed food or face penalties.

Tanzania: Govt 'May Use Army' to Curb Sugar Smuggling

Bunda The Prime Minister, Mr Mizengo Pinda, has said the government may use the army to control the smuggling of sugar after it has emerged that the racket is a hard nut to crack by the police.

Renewed sugar industry would cost 400m

A NEW sugar industry could be developed for Ireland at a cost of 400 million, it was claimed at the ploughing championships. Read more:
<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/renewed-sugar-industry-would-cost-400m-168345.html?#ixzz1YexeNt00>

Government to consider sugar tax

A sugar tax is one of the measures being considered by the Government to tackle rising obesity.

Sugar privatization no harm for farmers

The privatization of state-run sugar factories will not affect farmers, according to the general manager of Turkey's sugar factories.

Canadians consume 26 teaspoons of sugar daily

Canadians consume, on average, the equivalent of 26 teaspoons of sugar a day, according to a report from Statistics Canada released Wednesday.

Bury St Edmunds: Sugar tampering suspect released without charge

The 41-year-old was questioned by police after a woman allegedly had 13 powder-filled capsules drop out of a bag of sugar.

Sugar Cane Farmers Happy with their Crops and The Upcoming Harvest

The 70th annual sugar cane festival kicks off tonight in New Iberia. And sugar cane farmers say they couldn't be happier with their crops and the upcoming harvest. Owner of Gonsoulin Farms Ricky Gonsoulin says, "We are proud to say that we've been, doing this for the last 200 years and providing jobs and economic stability to this parish."

Savannah Sugar to setup 50MW power plant, frowns at number of govt agencies in the port

Lagos (WorldStage Newsonline)-- Plans are underway by Savannah Sugar Company Limited to set up an independent power plant that will use a by-product of sugar, to generate 50 megawatts of electricity.

Cargill and Grupo USJ form 50/50 JV

In Brazil, Cargill, a global trader of sugar and ethanol, and Grupo USJ, a company dedicated to the sugarcane industry, have formed a 50/50 joint venture, SJC Bioenergia.

Albee to lead sugar mission

Rep. Alfredo Benitez (Neg. Occ., 3rd District) yesterday called for the enactment of policies that would strengthen the local sugar industry in preparation for the considerable reduction of tariff rates on imported sugar as provided in the ASEAN Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Treatment.

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Brazil, the world's biggest sugar producer, may see a sharp fall in output. India, the second-biggest producer, is ready to fill this gap. With its estimated production of 26 million tonnes, India could easily export 3 million tonnes. Jonathan Kingsman, chairman of Switzerland-based Kingsman, the world's top sugar consultancy and brokerage firm, speaks to Ajay Modi on the prospects of exports from India. Edited excerpts:

First production results confirm that France is in for a record sugar crop

France is likely to harvest around 94 tonnes of sugar beet per ha (with an average sugar content of 16%). This would be equivalent to a sugar yield of around 13.8 tonnes per ha, 0.2 tonnes more than in the previous record year in 2009. The big crop has prompted the industry to start slicing beet one week earlier than usual (on September 13 on average compared with September 20). As a result the campaign is forecast to last an average of 106 days. The first beets delivered to the factories were quite heavy weighing 827 g with an average sugar content of 17.75%, industry sources said.

Industry tries to sweeten the deal

SUGAR industry executives are planning to leverage near-record sugar prices to entice new growers into the region.

Support fund set up for locked-out sugar workers

ST. PAUL - The Minnesota AFL-CIO is collecting donations to help the 1,300 sugar industry workers and their families locked out of their jobs by American Crystal Sugar since Aug. 1.

Co-op sugar mill wants to raise funds through sale of shares

PUNE: The Shri Chhatrapati Shahu cooperative sugar factory in Kolhapur, which has won a national award for quality management practices, has asked the state cooperation commissioner if they can raise funds by selling their shares in the market.

Food Industry Pitted Against Public Health At U.N. Summit

How do you come up with a plan to help millions of people around the world avoid a chronic disease? For starters, don't treat the food companies that sell the products that contribute to those diseases as partners in the process. At least, that's what public health advocates argue even as the accused companies say they're committed to making healthier products for the masses.

Leon Godchaux II, sugar and department-store businessman, dies at 94

Leon Godchaux II, a chemical engineer who ran the sugar and department-store businesses that his great-grandfather founded, died Tuesday at his New Orleans home.

He was 94. In a career spanning nearly seven decades, Mr. Godchaux was president of four companies. During World War II, the Navy took advantage of Mr. Godchaux's training when it put him to work designing explosives, including a detonator that was considered -- but not used -- for the first atomic bomb, said his son, Leon "Lee" Godchaux III.

Zimbabwe: MDC-T Condemns Invasion of Chiredzi Buildings By 'Thugs'

The MDC-T has condemned the invasion of three buildings in Masvingo by ZANU PF youths, calling the illegal takeovers the actions of "misguided thugs."

Kenya: Sugar Firms Smile All the Way to the Bank

Sugar millers are raking in huge profits from spiralling prices as farmers grapple with low returns and high farm production costs.

Kenya: Government Considering Privatization of Sugar Industry

The price of sugar will continue on a high as the gap between production and consumption widens according to Agriculture PS Romano Kiome. He says the high sugar prices are being experienced internationally and is made worse by the high cost of production. He says the government is considering privatizing the sugar industry as part of reforming it.

Zimbabwe: Ethanol Plant to Serve 70 Percent Fuel Needs

THE massive Chisumbanje ethanol plant is sitting on one million litres of fuel produced in three weeks when production commenced.

Tanzania: Sugar Prices Stay High in Uganda

Kampala Even as sugar imports start to arrive in the country, Ugandans have continued to pay expensively for the commodity.

Sugar beet harvest begins

HURON COUNTY While the official beginning of fall is still more than a week away, many of the signs of the season are here.

Cargill plans major growth at Brazil sugar cane venture

Cargill Inc., the nation's largest closely held company, and Grupo USJ, a Brazilian sugar-cane processor, plan to triple sugar-cane processing capacity in the South American nation to 15 million metric tons by 2020.

Cane growers get lessons in getting and keeping workers

After a skilled worker shortage this year, cane growers in north Queensland are being encouraged to brush up on their recruiting skills before next year's harvest.

Canada changes stance on salt, sugar, fats in processed foods Read more:
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Canada+changes+stance+salt+sugar+fats+processed+foods/5427606/story.html#ixzz1YThqfutD>

Canada signed on to a United Nations declaration Monday to combat chronic diseases after dropping its objection to a key passage about developing ways to reduce the amount of salt, sugar and fats in processed foods. Read more:
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Canada+changes+stance+salt+sugar+fats+processed+foods/5427606/story.html#ixzz1YThry2RC>

Food manufacturing and processing industry issued stern warning

A stern warning has been issued to people in the food manufacturing and processing industry to reduce salt and sugar content in processed food or face penalties.

Uganda: Rain Affecting Sugar Production in Kinyara

The current heavy rain coupled with lack of mature sugarcane has greatly affected sugar production at Kinyara sugar factory.

Kenya: Sugar Shortage Expected If Factories Close for Three Months

Expect the acute shortage of sugar that has hit the country to continue if sugar factories close business due to cane shortage. Kenya Union of Sugar Plantation and Allied Workers Secretary General Francis Wangara says factories should close for three months as they have run out of sugarcane. He says most farmers are abandoning sugarcane farming for other cash crops.

Kenya: Nzoia Sugar Firm Disowns Farmers' Body

Nzoia Sugar Company yesterday disowned the Nzoia Outgrowers Company Organisation following weeks of bitter exchange of words that saw the farmers organisation begin the sale of its cane to the rival sugar company. Addressing the press at the company's boardroom, Nzoia Sugar Company managing director Saul Wasilwa said despite their efforts to reach an amicable solution with NOCO, nothing was forthcoming. "The NSC has now reached the decision to end relationship with NOCO," said Wasilwa.

Zimbabwe: Ethanol Plant - Right Step in Economic Emancipation

The Chisumbanje ethanol plant, capable of producing up to 40 million litres a month from sugarcane, is finally in production and Zimbabwe will soon be returning to a gasoline- ethanol blend for petrol engines.

E2bn invested to improve productivity of SD's sugar

THE sugar industry is important in the economy of the country as its output accounts for 10% to the gross domestic product (GDP), says Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulile Mashwama.

Yoghurt ad leaves sour taste for sugar growers

Sugar lobby group Canegrowers is seeking legal advice about a yoghurt advertisement.

WVZ to stop publishing first sugar beet content

INITIAL national sugar content of the German sugar beet crop will no longer be published, the association of German sugar producers WVZ said on Thursday.

Investors to pump 400m into sugar industry

IRISH sugar could be back on the shelves again after farmers and businessmen said they are prepared to make a 400m investment to revive the sugar industry.

Protect sugar industry, gov't told

MANILA, Philippines- Rep. Alfredo Albee Benitez of Negros Occidental urged the government yesterday to immediately enact policies that would strengthen the local sugar industry that faces stiff foreign competition as a result of the huge tariff rate reduction to be fully implemented in 2015.

The Role of Biofuels in the Energy Future: Lessons from Brazil

To further understand biofuels, I decided to travel to Brazil, where the modern biofuel industry has started and flourished. I believe that before you develop a model, you need to speak with the people that know what is going on to have a realistic perspective. Therefore I went with Madhu Khanna for a 10 day visit to Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Piracicaba, Campinas and Brasilia and spoke with government officials, investors, environmentalists and obtained what I believe to be a well-rounded perspective. In the process, we learned to appreciate Brazil's vast resources, their hard-working, fun-loving people (in Brazil, it is not a contradiction) and enjoyed the country's beauty, weather and food.

Tanzania: Govt 'May Use Army' to Curb Sugar Smuggling

Bunda The Prime Minister, Mr Mizengo Pinda, has said the government may use the army to control the smuggling of sugar after it has emerged that the racket is a hard nut to crack by the police.

Renewed sugar industry would cost 400m

A NEW sugar industry could be developed for Ireland at a cost of 400 million, it was claimed at the ploughing championships. Read more:
<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/renewed-sugar-industry-would-cost-400m-168345.html?#ixzz1YexeNt00>

Government to consider sugar tax

A sugar tax is one of the measures being considered by the Government to tackle rising obesity.

Sugar privatization no harm for farmers

The privatization of state-run sugar factories will not affect farmers, according to the general manager of Turkey's sugar factories.

Canadians consume 26 teaspoons of sugar daily

Canadians consume, on average, the equivalent of 26 teaspoons of sugar a day, according to a report from Statistics Canada released Wednesday.

Bury St Edmunds: Sugar tampering suspect released without charge

The 41-year-old was questioned by police after a woman allegedly had 13 powder-filled capsules drop out of a bag of sugar.

Sugar Cane Farmers Happy with their Crops and The Upcoming Harvest

The 70th annual sugar cane festival kicks off tonight in New Iberia. And sugar cane farmers say they couldn't be happier with their crops and the upcoming harvest. Owner of Gonsoulin Farms Ricky Gonsoulin says, "We are proud to say that we've been, doing this for the last 200 years and providing jobs and economic stability to this parish."

Savannah Sugar to setup 50MW power plant, frowns at number of govt agencies in the port

Lagos (WorldStage Newsonline)-- Plans are underway by Savannah Sugar Company Limited to set up an independent power plant that will use a by-product of sugar, to generate 50 megawatts of electricity.

Cargill and Grupo USJ form 50/50 JV

In Brazil, Cargill, a global trader of sugar and ethanol, and Grupo USJ, a company dedicated to the sugarcane industry, have formed a 50/50 joint venture, SJC Bioenergia.

Albee to lead sugar mission

Rep. Alfredo Benitez (Neg. Occ., 3rd District) yesterday called for the enactment of policies that would strengthen the local sugar industry in preparation for the considerable reduction of tariff rates on imported sugar as provided in the ASEAN Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Treatment.

Proserpine Sugar takeover bid process continues

The Proserpine Sugar board in north Queensland has announced the amended \$115 million takeover offer from Sucrogen is superior to a \$120 million deal being offered by Tully COFCO.

Sugar mill chief Ian McBean cans 'tricky' Chinese offer for Proserpine Mill

THE chief executive of a north Queensland sugar mill has condemned the behaviour of a Chinese group that wants to buy the mill, describing its behaviour as "tricky" and accusing it of trying to mislead growers.

Shareholder Class Action Filed Against Imperial Sugar Company by the Law Firm of Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check, LLP

Notice is hereby given that a class action lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas on behalf of purchasers of the securities of Imperial Sugar Company (NASDAQ: IPSU) ("Imperial Sugar" or the "Company"), who purchased or otherwise acquired Imperial Sugar securities between December 29, 2010 and August 5, 2011, inclusive (the "Class Period").

Sugar firm more than doubles its profitability for the year

South Nyanza Sugar Company Limited (Sony) has more than doubled its profitability for the year to June 30, largely driven by growing demand and increased prices.

Uganda sugar crisis: The wrong bitter pill?

SUGAR PRICES in Uganda have remained defiantly high. The remedies that politicians have proposed to ease the crisis are not working, and this is down to Uganda's borders remaining open, allowing the commodity to be exported to regional markets.

NRM sugar: Are we a liberal economy?

In a move to deal with the current sugar crisis in the country, President Museveni has announced he would encourage NRM companies to distribute the commodity without extorting money from buyers. President Museveni blames the rise in sugar prices on profiteering by greedy and unscrupulous traders and says firms loyal to NRM, the ruling party, will step in to supply sugar and stop the exorbitant prices.

Tanzania: Regional Crisis as Sugarcane Production Falls

Arusha Speculators are partly to blame for the sugar crisis currently hitting the East African region. Some of them are hoarding the commodity in order to create artificial shortage and rake up more profit from high prices. High prices in Kenya have compounded the crisis as traders from across the region smuggle sugar to cash in on the lucrative market. The price has more than doubled in recent weeks, as the rest of the region also faces sugar shortages.

Swaziland: Governance Not Money At Heart of Nation's Malaise

Mbabane South Africa recently granted a US\$350 million bailout to Swaziland's King Mswati III - following desperate overtures to his neighbour to stave-off his kingdom's financial meltdown - but the king has now cooled to the idea and left the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) unsigned and the loan in limbo.

Sucrogen urges growers to accept its offer for Proserpine Sugar Mill

Sucrogen has taken out a full page advertisement in a Proserpine newspaper today to try and persuade growers to vote in favour of its amended \$115 million takeover offer for the town's sugar mill in north Queensland.

India heads for worrying sugar surplus, says industry body

India is heading for a worrying sugar surplus in 2011-12 and the government should help by allowing four million tonnes (mt) of exports and buying two mt to trim stocks, the head of a producers' body said on Tuesday.

Amalgamated Sugar Expects Area Crops to Produce More Than They Did Last Year

Sugar beet harvest has been underway for less than two weeks, but it's already looking sweet. Ideal growing conditions warm days without excessive heat that stresses crops allowed the tubers to catch up after the extremely late start to the growing season. September's continued warm days with cool nights have allowed the crop to keep adding tons heading to its Oct. 1 maturity date.

PROSPERINE SUGAR TAKEOVER BID PROCESS CONTINUES

The Proserpine Sugar board in north Queensland has announced the amended \$115 million takeover offer from Sucrogen is superior to a \$120 million deal being offered by Tully COFCO.

Kenya: Sh34 Million Sugar Is Mine, Says Uganda Minister

A Ugandan minister embroiled in a Sh34 million sugar consignment held at the Port of Mombasa now claims that Mumias Sugar Company and Kenyan politicians are conspiring to destroy it to conceal evidence

President should look beyond sugar

While still on an extended private visit to India, President Museveni on Tuesday issued one of his most intriguing directives barring sugar manufactures from selling sugar to politicians and speculators who, in his words, greedily hike prices. The President in the same statement directed the Vice President, Minister for Trade and the Inspector General of Police to enforce the ban against speculators.

State mills hike sugar prices

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) increased mill-gate prices of sugar by 13 percent to Tk 60 a kilogram early this week, a senior official said yesterday.

Government sells stake in Kinyara Sugar Works

The opposition yesterday raised the alarm on a day the government sold its stake in Kinyara Sugar Works to a private company, RAI Holdings Limited. While the Leader of Opposition, Mr Nandala Mafabi, who blew the whistle on the deal described it as dubious, Information Minister Mary Karooro Okurut said the deal was intended to help the investor increase its capital so as to boost sugar production in the country.

Codexis and Raizen to improve sugar ethanol production

Codexis and Raizen Energia, a Brazil-based sugar and ethanol producer, have formed an agreement to improve the way that sugar-based first generation ethanol is produced.

Roxol ethanol production in full swing

Sept. 29--ROXAS Holdings Inc. on Wednesday said production of the bioethanol plant of unit Roxol Bioenergy Corp. has gone full swing, providing the listed firm a new revenue stream. In a statement, Pedro Roxas, RHI chairman, said he received word that the

Sugar Regulatory Authority would soon sign the guidelines covering the reference price for locally-produced ethanol.

GOVERNMENT AND CANEFARMERS SIGN MOU

There was a brief re-signing ceremony this afternoon of a Memorandum of Understanding among the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers' Association, the Belize Sugar Industries Limited, the Belize Sugar Control Board and the Government of Belize. Earlier this year, in August, the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association made a proposal to purchase majority interests in the B.S.I., and thereafter, its executive members went looking for potential financing in order that the deadline to pay ING the more than thirty million dollars was due by the end of this month. The B.S.C.F.A. executives met potential investors from two Central American countries and another from the US, but Honduras' Banco Atlntida, another interested investor, was the name ringing for the past several weeks as the most poised to land the deal. But that idea was met by resistance by industry stakeholders. After today's panel attached their signatures to the newest piece of agreement reached, Prime Minister Barrow, Chief Executive Officer of the BSI, Joey Montalvo, and President of the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers' Association, Alfredo Ortega, shared the details and what it means, since ING had extended the deadline for its payment for twelve months, with conditions.

Cosan To Buyback \$100M Stock

Brazilian sugar and ethanol producer Cosan Limited (NYSE:CZZ) recently received its Board of Directors' approval for the renewal of its share buyback program. Pursuant to the approval, Cosan can buyback shares to be held in treasury for future sale or cancellation to the amount of \$100 million from July 4, 2011 to July 4, 2012.

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ETHANOL

Guj sugar coops to supply 17.5 mn litres ethanol to OMCs

Sugar co-operatives from Gujarat are likely to bid for about 17.5 million litres of ethanol to supply to public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) during the new sugar year that starts from October 2011. The OMCs have floated tenders to purchase over 1 billion litres of ethanol from sugar industry for blending.

Nine sugar co-operative societies and three private distilleries from Gujarat are likely to submit the tenders for ethanol to the tune of 17.5 million litres, informed an industry source. The tenders will close on September 2.

Currently, ethanol is sold at a price of Rs 27 per litre in the spot market in Gujarat. However, the industry is hopeful to get better price from the OMCs this year.

Inadequate supply likely to hit ethanol blending programme

The government's plan to raise the level of ethanol blending in petrol to 10% from the current 5% may fail to take off because of poor supplies from sugar companies. The government had decided two years ago to implement the ethanol blending programme (EBP) up to a limit of 10%.

Earlier this year, a report of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council endorsed the Saumitra Chaudhuri expert panel suggestion that the 5% ethanol blending programme (EBP) be diluted to meet the ethanol needs of different sectors. It said the programme appeared to primarily benefit the sugar industry, and suggested that the ethanol price should be market determined and not fixed by the government.

In India, ethanol is almost entirely produced from cane molasses. Hence, ethanol production in India is heavily dependent on the production of sugar and sugarcane, which fluctuates due to the cyclic nature of the crop, Jena said. The government, under the Sugar Development Fund Rules 1983, provides soft loans, up to 40% of the project cost, to sugar mills for setting up ethanol projects to improve their viability via value addition to their by-product, namely, molasses.

Brazilian government to reduce Ethanol Content of Gasoline

High sugar prices are making U.S. corn-based ethanol more competitive and allowing U.S. ethanol producers to enter markets that previously exclusively imported Brazilian ethanol.

Brazil uses sugarcane to produce ethanol as an additive to gasoline. While Brazil is currently the world's leading exporter of ethanol, the U.S. Energy Information Administration recently wrote in its weekly petroleum report, "For the remainder of 2011, it is likely that the United States will surpass Brazil as the world's largest ethanol exporter due to recent supply shortages and resulting high sugar prices in Brazil."

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OMCs likely to get less ethanol for blending

The sugar industry has offered to sell 610 million litres of ethanol, valued at Rs 1,650 crore, to oil marketing companies (OMCs) for blending with petrol in the next sugar season beginning October. The quantity offered is much lower than the requirement of around 1,010 mll stated in the tender which had invited bids for supply.

Renuka Sugars is learnt to have offered the highest quantity of 90 mll, followed by Bajaj Hindusthan (80 mll) and Balrampur Chini (36 mll) in the tenders opened late on Friday evening. These companies will realise an interim price of Rs 27 per litre.

Sugar mills not keen on selling ethanol to oil companies as alcohol industry gives better profit

Sugar mills aren't keen on selling ethanol to petroleum marketing companies this year because the byproduct fetches more money if sold to the alcohol industry.

Oil companies purchased ethanol at Rs 27/litre from ethanol manufacturing units attached to sugar mills last year while alcohol prices were at about Rs 20/litre. Selling ethanol to oil companies made business sense for sugar mills last year because sugar prices barely matched the cost of production throughout the year due to a glut in production.

As another sugar season approaches in about a month, the equations have changed. While oil companies have not said a word about the price they are going to pay, prices of rectified spirit have risen to Rs 35-36/litre. Extra neutral spirit is being sold for Rs 38/40/ litre and special denatured spirit currently costs Rs 29/30/litre.

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BP acquires additional shares in Brazilian sugar and ethanol producer

BP has agreed to acquire an additional three percent share of Brazilian sugar and ethanol producer Companhia Nacional de Acucar e Alcool (CNAA) from LDC Bioenergia for about \$25m.

Zimbabwe: Ethanol Plant to Serve 70 Percent Fuel Needs

THE massive Chisumbanje ethanol plant is sitting on one million litres of fuel produced in three weeks when production commenced.

Cargill and Grupo USJ form 50/50 JV

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