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'Nationalisation of rivers must for improving agriculture production'

Special Correspondent



HONOURED BY A LEGEND: Lyricist Vairamuthu, centre, giving away the 'Kavignargal Thirunaal' award to poet Lakkumi Kumaran Gnanadirvaiyam in Thanjavur on Sunday. Photo: B.Velankanni Raj

Nationalisation of rivers is the only solution for improving agriculture production and the living standards of farmers in the country, said lyricist Vairamuthu here on Sunday.

At a function to celebrate 'poets' festival' and to analyse his recent book 'Moondram Ulagapor', Mr. Vairamuthu said that before linking rivers, the minds of people of various states should be linked. That is the biggest challenge, he said.

Linking of rivers would not only boost agriculture, but also strengthen national integration. He also called for producing surplus electricity and ensure surplus water by linking rivers. He said that western ghats should be protected.

Underling the importance of increasing the forest cover, Mr. Vairamuthu said one tree should be planted for each tree felled. Making a strong plea for organic farming, he said that human population should be controlled while cattle population should be increased to get manure for organic farming.

"My book 'Moondram Ulagapor' deals with all these things. It cautions about the danger of globalisation and global warming," Mr. Vairamuthu said.

Mr. Vairamuthu gave the 'Kavignargal Thirunaal' award for the year 2012 to poet Lakkumi Kumaran Gnanadirvaiyam. The award carried a citation and cash of Rs.20,000. M.Muthaiah, general secretary of Vetri Thamizhar Peravai, T.Stalin Gunasekaran, president, Makkal Sinthanai Peravai, Erode, and Guru.Gnanambigai analysed the book.

They said that the characters in the novel depicted the real condition of farmers and agriculture in the country. The novel showcased the multi-faceted talents of Vairamuthu, they said. Kudavayil Balasubramanian, epigraphist, presided over the function. He narrated the history of Cholas and Pandyas and how they both destroyed each other's capitals - Madurai and Thanajvur in their desire to conquer and called for unity among Tamils.

K.R.Nagarajan, president of Tiruppur district unit of Vetri Thamizhar Peravai, S.Asif Ali, Thanjavur district president of the peravai, and R.Chezhiyan, its deputy general secretary spoke. The function was jointly organised by Ramraj Cotton Ltd and Vetri Thamizhar Peravai for which Mr. Vairamuthu is the founder.

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Sharp rise in fodder prices worries officials, farmers

Shankar Bennur

The rise in demand has resulted in increase in fodder prices in Mysore district, causing anxiety and worry for authorities and farmers alike.

The Revenue Department had been procuring fodder from farmers, who had adequate stock, at Rs. 4,500 a tonne.

The fodder was then distributed at subsidised rate at three fodder banks in the district.

However, the rise in demand has triggered an increase in fodder price from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 6,500 a tonne.

Demand from outside

"The fodder price has shot up with the rise in demand. With people from districts such as Ramanagaram, Tumkur, Chamarajanagar coming to Mysore to procure fodder, the demand has suddenly gone up.

Till recently, fodder was available at Rs. 4,500 a tonne, but now it has gone up to Rs. 6,500,” Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry Prabhu Murthy told *The Hindu*.

At fodder banks

He said fodder banks had been set up at Beerihundi, Doddakavalande and Yelwal in the district.

All of them had about 10 to 15 tonnes of fodder.

“We cannot buy large quantities of fodder and store it.

When stocks get exhausted, fodder is procured by tahsildars of the respective taluks,” he explained.

As paddy is being harvested in taluks such as K.R. Nagar, T. Narsipur and Nanjangud, fodder is procured from there for the banks.

Subsidised rate

Mr. Murthy said the fodder banks sold fodder at 50 per cent subsidy. With the government fixing the price for procuring fodder at Rs. 4,500 a tonne, the sale price for farmers is Rs. 2,250, he said. Though there is no fodder scarcity, the situation has become worrisome, mainly for small farmers who have not stocked up on fodder. During an interaction with the media here recently, Minister in-charge of Mysore district S.A. Ramdas maintained that fodder stock with farmers in the district would last for around 10 weeks. State sugarcane growers’ association president Kurubur Shanthakumar said the fodder price was rising because of the increase in demand and lack of availability in some drought-affected areas of the State. “Some farmers told me that a tractor load of fodder was now fetching Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000. A bullock cart load of fodder which earlier cost Rs. 1,000 was now being sold for Rs. 3,000. Even the authorities are finding it difficult to procure fodder for the fodder banks owing to the price rise,” he said.

TIRUPUR, July 24, 2012

‘Bring out white paper on profitability of emu farming’

Social activists and farmers’ associations have called upon the State government to come out with a ‘white paper’ on profitability of Emu farming besides asking the government agencies to stringently monitor emu farming activities ‘prospering’ in Tirupur, Coimbatore and Erode districts.

C. Nallasami, president of Lower Bhavani Farmers Association, pointed out that about a decade ago, many Emu rearing firms in Maharashtra and Gujarat amassed many crores of rupees from people before fleeing from the country without giving back any of the promised material to the investors.

“To avoid any possibilities of such incidents from occurring again, the government as well as institutions like Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University should come out with authoritative reports on whether emu farming would be a profitable entity to offer huge returns to the investors in the magnitude in which the firms advertise to lure the people,” he said.

L. Kathiresan, state organizer of People’s Movement of India, was of the opinion that the emu farming business seeking investments from general public by offering huge dividends in return, need to be checked carefully for its transparency to avoid any investor from getting duped. “Not being a native bird, most of the people have little knowledge of emu farming, its rearing methodology and profitability.” If it is a case of sheep or goat rearing, there is very little scope for anyone to fool the investors in the region,” he said. Mr. Nallasami called upon the well-known personalities in the social circles including cine artists and sportspersons to refrain themselves from appearing in the commercials of Emu farming companies.

July 24, 2012

Farmers’ grievances day meeting

The regular farmers’ grievances day meeting will be held at the collectorate hall here at 10.30 a.m. on July 27. Collector Jayashree Muralidharan will preside over the meeting. An official press release urged farmers to participate in the meeting and get their grievances solved.

PUDUKOTTAI, July 24, 2012

3 TNCSC employees arrested for illegal despatch of paddy

M.BALAGANESSIN

They sent 250 bags for hulling but recorded only for 150

Three employees of a warehouse at Aranthangi near here belonging to Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) were arrested on Monday for illegal despatch of paddy for hulling at a rice mill.

According to official sources, the warehouse employees had despatched 250 bags of paddy for hulling, although they had prepared records only for 150 bags.

Revenue officials led by the special tahsildar S. Rajendran, intercepted the lorry in Pudukottai and found that the warehouse employees had illegally cleared an extra 100 bags of paddy for hulling.

The surprise check was conducted following instruction by V. Kalaiarasi, Collector, Mr. Rajendran said. Based on his complaint with the food cell police, three persons – A. Pannerselvam, quality inspector, Chezhian, bill clerk, and Karuppiyah, watchman, were arrested.

The lorry driver abandoned the vehicle and made good his escape. The paddy was being despatched to a hulling mill at Keeranur near here. The hulling mill owner in connivance with the employees had taken extra bags from the warehouse. "Each bag is worth about Rs.1,000," Mr. Rajendran said. The arrested were produced before the Judicial Magistrate who remanded them in judicial custody. This was the second case in succession. Last week, four persons, including a hulling agent Chinraj were arrested. The paddy from Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation were sent to Chinraj at Rajalipatti on the border of Manapparai in Tiruchi district.

Chinraj had moved a part of the paddy to a dealer in Manapparai and mixed the ration rice before despatching it to the TNCSC godown. The food cell police arrested Chinraj and three others.

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Training on black gram cultivation

A day-long training on black gram cultivation through special drought management techniques would be held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Vamban on Tuesday (July 24). In a release on Monday, Collector V. Kalaiarasi said drought affected cultivation in black gram .

The application of mini mobile sprinkler was one of the new techniques which would increase the yield. Details could be had by dialling 04322-290321.

VELLORE, July 24, 2012

Subsidy handed over to sericulture farmers

Collector Ajay Yadav handed over cheques to the tune of Rs. 3,08,335 as subsidy towards cultivation of high yield mulberry varieties for 72 farmers undertaking sericulture for the year 2011-2012 on Monday.

He also gave away the cheques to farmers under the other sericulture schemes.

A total of Rs. 4,83,335 was given as grant for 75 beneficiaries.

A total of 681 petitions were received during the weekly public grievance redressal day meeting on Monday, according to a press release.

BELLARY, July 24, 2012

Water released from Tungabhadra reservoir

Move expected to ease drinking water shortage in Bellary

The release of water from the Tungabhadra reservoir into the high-level canal on Monday has come as a relief to residents of Bellary and the city corporation, as it would help overcome the severe drinking water crisis facing the city since June.

Tungabhadra Board officials following a request from the State government, released 100 cusecs of water into the canal and would gradually increase it to touch 400 cusecs. The board authorities said that the discharge from the reservoir was exclusively for drinking water and appealed to farmers in the Tungabhadra command area to extend their cooperation by not using the water for irrigation.

Minister for Tourism and district in-charge B.S. Anand Singh had taken up the severe shortage of drinking water here with Minister for Water Resources Basavaraj Bommai and with the Tungabhadra Board and urged them to ease the situation by releasing water.

The high-level canal is the major source of water for the Allipur reservoir which provides drinking water to 70 per cent of the city.

The remaining 30 per cent is covered by Moka reservoir, which gets water from the low-level canal.

It is expected that the water released into the canal would reach the pumping station at Allipur by Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning.

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Sugarcane as fodder?

State sugarcane growers' association president Kurubur Shanthakumar told *The Hindu* on Monday that some farmers were buying sugarcane at Rs. 3,000 a tonne to feed their livestock in some parts of Belgaum and Haveri districts owing to scarcity of fodder. "Farmers from north Karnataka, who recently attended a meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar in Bangalore, said sugarcane was being used as fodder for milk-yielding cows, as the price of regular fodder was rising," he said.

KANNUR, July 24, 2012

Kudumbasree goat farm inaugurated

A goat farm at Thillankeri panchayat, under the Kudumbasree goat-village project in the district, has been inaugurated by district panchayat vice-president T. Krishnan.

The panchayat, which had implemented the project in the first phase, has 140 families engaged in farming.

The function was presided over by panchayat vice president Aniyeri Chandran. Kudumbasree district co-ordinator T. Shahul Hameed explained the project at the function.

As many as 10 women have been provided with 40 goats, which will be protected in a special farm with a view to promote Kudumbasree gathering and a considerable rise in their income. At least 58 panchayats have been engaged in the profitable goat-village project.

Till date, 23 goat markets and goat farmers' meetings have been conducted, incurring a turnover of Rs.68 lakh. The project comprises a total of 7,250 farmers and 2,900 goats in the district.

A district goat breeders' society has also been functioning under the Kudumbasree, while a factory to produce organic manure out of goat dung will be started at Thillankeri by the Kudumbasree units in association with the district panchayat, the mission co-ordinator says in a press release.

ADILABAD, July 24, 2012

Cotton, soyabean fields submerged in Adilabad

Floods inundate fields in Bela, Jainad mandals



NO RESPITE: Sidam Purushotham, a farmer from Dollara, pointing to his inundated cotton field. PHOTO: S. HARPAL SINGH

An estimated 6,000 acres of cotton fields went under submergence in Bela and Jainad mandals, besides a couple of hundred acres of soyabean crop in Sirpur (T) mandal in Adilabad district on Monday.

Water from many swollen local streams in these mandals spilled over into the fields, as the Penganga in spate, did not allow any of these to discharge into it.

Heavy rainfall in Maharashtra on Sunday flooded the Penganga river located on the northern border of the district with Maharashtra. This river began swelling in the evening and all the submergence took place in the dead of the night.

The villages located on the banks of Penganga where the nascent cotton crop was submerged were Korta, Kedarpur, Dollara, Pandalwada, Sangvi, Akoli, Kamai, Kouta, Bahadurpur and Anandpur in Jainad and Maniarpur, Khogdur, Bedoda, Sangdi, Guda, Kamgarpur, Mangrud, Dahegaon, Kapri, Karanji and Umri in Bela mandal. About 300 acres of land in each of these villages was submerged on an average. Several streams were overflowing on Monday following heavy rainfall in Bela, Jainad, Adilabad and Tamsi mandals the previous night.

While Bela received nearly 16 cm of rainfall, Adilabad and Jainad received over 12 cm while Tamsi received over 10 cm of rainfall.

The rainfall deficit in the district was reduced from the over 50 per cent just a week ago to about 23 per cent on Monday. Bela and Koutala mandal received rainfall in excess of normal.

GANGADHARA NELLORE (CHITTOOR DISTRICT), July 24, 2012

'High density cropping for mango will yield ten times more'



General Ved Prakash Malik, retired Chief of Army Staff, inaugurates the 'mobile classroom' as part of 'Project Unnati' at Gangadhara Nellore in Chittoor district on Monday. —Photo: K.V. Poornachandra Kumar

The mango-rich Chittoor district is poised to leave a larger footprint on the country's agricultural landscape as the mammoth initiative by the Jain Irrigation Systems and Coca Cola have started bearing fruit.

The Ultra High Density Plantation (UHDP) technique stipulated by 'Project Unnati' may be heckled by the traditional mango growers, who religiously adhere to the inter-plant gap, but the new system promises a higher yield of up to ten times.

The idea is to prune excess branches and manage the canopy so as to allow maximum light interception in its early years, which allows planting of 600 trees in an acre, instead of a mere 40 in the conventional method. It also regulates the use of resources, thus achieving the twin benefits of water conservation and effective fertilizer management.

The initiative to achieve sustainable agriculture touched its first milestone on Monday, when a specialised training programme for farmers and the establishment of 100 demo farms in a pilot phase were announced. To facilitate training-on-the-go, a mobile classroom in the form of a bus was formally launched at the Jain Irrigation's sprawling plant here. The customised vehicle, which was formally declared open by General Ved Prakash Malik, former Chief of Army Staff, has audio-visual and multimedia equipment fitted for the benefit of the progressive farmers evincing interest in the UHDP model.

"We plan to train 50,000 farmers in the model in the next five years, at the rate of 10,000 per year", announced T. Krishna Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages, who sees the project as making a good business sense too, apart from a social angle, in view of the growing demand globally for packaged juice. While India contributes 55 per cent of world's mango production, the productivity is among the lowest and hence, this initiative to achieve ten-fold growth in yield, explained Anil Jain, Managing Director of Jain Irrigation Systems.

MACHILIPATNAM, July 24, 2012

TDP vows to fight for release of water for Delta farmers

Party leaders fault government on tight security for DRC meet

The opposition Telugu Desam Party came down heavily on the ruling Congress for conducting the District Review Committee (DRC) meeting amidst tight police security here on Monday.

Mylavaram MLA and TDP district president Devineni Umamaheswara Rao and others squatted near dais to register their protest against winding up of the meeting in just two hours.

They alleged that district in-charge Minister Galla Aruna Kumari did not spare much time to discuss the problems faced by farmers and common man. There was no categorical statement on release of irrigation waters. The farmers in Krishna delta were left in the lurch with lopsided policies of the government, he said.

The Congress was trying to pass the buck on the TDP for its failure to cater to the needs of farmers. The TDP issued GO 69 following Bachawat Award.

As per the GO, the government would have to store water in the Nagarjuna Sagar and release it by June first week for kharif crop. The government, however, utilised all waters, and shifting the blame on the TDP, he explained.

“The Congress leaders were afraid that their misdeeds would be exposed if the media was allowed. So, they barred the entry of the media. The TDP would not rest until the government was exposed. The party would fight until the water was released for Delta farmers,” the TDP leader said.

Teachers’ Constituency MLCs K.S. Lakshman Rao and Yelamanchili Baburajendra Prasad, Machilipatnam MP Konakalla Narayana Rao, Kaikaluru MLA Jayamangala Venkata Ramana, Nandigama MLA Tangirala Prabhakar, and others were present.

hindustantimes

Tue, 24 Jul 2012

weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Tuesday, Jul 24

Max Min

36.8° | 26.6°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Sunrise: 5:45

Humidity: 62%

Sunset: 18:39

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 993

Tomorrow's Forecast








Rainy

Wednesday, Jul 25

Max Min

34° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Jul 26	Friday Jul 27	Saturday Jul 28	Sunday Jul 29	Monday Jul 30
				
34° 28°	34° 28°	33° 28°	35° 27°	35° 27°
Rainy	Rainy	Cloudy	Rainy	Rainy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

23 JUL, 2012, 01.00PM IST, PTI

Crude palm oil falls 1.19 pc on global cues

NEW DELHI: Tracking a weak global trend, crude palm oil prices fell by 6.90 to Rs 573.20 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions.

Also, sluggish demand in the spot market further fuelled the downtrend in crude palm oil futures.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in July fell by Rs 6.90, or 1.19 per cent, to Rs 573.20 per 10 kg in business turnover of 268 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in the August contract declined by Rs 6.90, or 1.18 per cent, to Rs 576.90 per 10 kg in 2,239 lots.

Market analysts said apart from weak global trend, position offloaded by speculators mainly led to fall in crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

Meanwhile, palm oil for the October delivery lost 2 per cent to USD 940 a tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the lowest since June 28.

23 JUL, 2012, 12.58PM IST, PTI

Chana futures decline 0.70 pc on profit-booking

NEW DELHI: Chana prices fell by Rs 34 to Rs 4,842 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators booked profits after recent gains amid sluggish demand in the spot market.

However, slow progress of summer-sown pulses due to less rainfall in key growing areas limited the losses.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, chana for delivery in August fell by Rs 34, or 0.70 per cent, to Rs 4,842 per quintal with an open interest of 93,470 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in the July contract lost Rs 29, or 0.59 per cent, to Rs 4,928 per quintal in 31,750 lots.

Market analysts said besides profit-booking by speculators at existing higher levels, sluggish demand in the spot market mainly put pressure on chana prices at futures trade.

Business Standard

Tuesday, Jul 24, 2012

Crude palm oil falls 1.19% on global cues

The commodity lost 2% to touch \$940 a tonne on the Malaysian Derivatives Exchange

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 23, 2012, 14:19 IST

Tracking a weak global trend, crude palm oil prices fell by 6.90 to Rs 573.20 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions.

Sluggish demand in the spot market further fuelled the downtrend in crude palm oil futures. At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in July fell by Rs 6.90, or 1.19%, to Rs 573.20 per 10 kg in business turnover of 268 lots.

The August contract declined by Rs 6.90, or 1.18%, to Rs 576.90 per 10 kg in 2,239 lots.

Market analysts said apart from weak global trend, position offloaded by speculators mainly led to fall in crude palm oil prices at futures trade. Meanwhile, palm oil for the October delivery lost 2% to \$940 a tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the lowest since June 28.

Coriander declines 1.2% on profit-booking

Subdued demand also dragged prices

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 23, 2012, 14:12 IST



Coriander prices declined by 1.20% to Rs 4,432 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels, driven by weak trend at spot market on sluggish demand. At the National Commodity Exchange, coriander for delivery in August declined by Rs 54, or 1.20%, to Rs 4,432 per quintal with an open interest of 18,960 lots. The September contract shed Rs 37, or 0.81%, to Rs 4,550 per quintal in 9,750 lots.

Market analysts said besides profit-booking by speculators at prevailing higher levels, subdued demand in the spot market mainly led to decline in coriander prices at futures market.

Pepper down 0.8% on profit-booking

Reports of lower exports also fuel drop in futures prices, but deficient rains in key growing areas limits losses

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 23, 2012, 13:49 IST



Pepper prices declined by 0.80% to Rs 42,930 per quintal in futures trade today after speculators locked-in gains after recent gains amid lower exports.

However, thin supplies in the spot markets and subdued rains in major producing regions, which may hurt output, restricted the fall.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, pepper for delivery in August fell sharply by Rs 345, or 0.80%, to Rs 42,930 per quintal, with an open interest of 5,239 lots.

September pepper lost Rs 350, or 0.80%, to Rs 43,300 per quintal, with an open interest of 953 lots.

Analysts said emergence of profit-booking by speculators after recent gains and reports of lower exports mainly led to a fall in pepper prices at futures trade.

However, deficient rains in key growing regions which could hurt output restricted the losses.

Turmeric climbs 3.87% on poor sowing

Strong overseas demand contributes to surge in prices

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 23, 2012, 13:33 IST



Continuing its rising streak, turmeric prices went up by as much as 3.87% to Rs 6,330 per quintal in futures trade today as participants indulged in creating speculative positions amid reports of slow progress of sowing due to deficient rains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, turmeric for delivery in September was up by Rs 236, or 3.87%, higher at Rs 6,330 per quintal, with an open interest of 11,215 lots.

The August contract gained Rs 220, or 3.71%, higher at Rs 6,144 per quintal, with an open interest of 18,095 lots.

Analysts said the persistent rise in turmeric futures was mostly due to speculative positions created by participants, driven by reports of slow progress of sowing following lower monsoon rains in key growing regions.

Besides, strong overseas demand also influenced turmeric prices at futures trade, they said.

Meanwhile, the total area under cultivation in India, the world's biggest producer and exporter of the yellow spice, is likely to fall 30% this season. Turmeric is planted between June and August.

THE HINDU Business Line

Pepper futures drop on global cues

Suresh P. Iyengar



Pepper prices in the international market were quoted at \$8,200 a tonne (C&F) while Vietnam was offering its produce at \$5,950 a tonne for 500 GL.

Mumbai, July 24:

Pepper futures on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange had lost 0.29 per cent to Rs 43,150 per quintal on Monday due to weak international markets.

However, there was good buying interest at lower levels as the domestic production is expected to drop to a 10-year low. Reports of Vietnam farmers holding back their stock for better prices also helped recovery in prices after the initial fall. Pepper prices in the international market were quoted at \$8,200 a tonne (C&F) while Vietnam was offering its produce at \$5,950 a tonne for 500 GL. Brazil shipments were at \$6,150 a tonne for the B-Asta grade. Arrivals in domestic market were lower at 22 tonnes against the demand of 23 tonnes.

Global production

Global pepper production in 2012 is expected to increase 7.2 per cent to 3.20 lakh tonnes compared with 2.98 lakh tonnes in 2011 with a sharp rise of 24 per cent in Indonesian and 10 per cent in Vietnam. According to latest report, pepper output in Vietnam is estimated at 1.35 lakh tonnes compared with 1.1 lakh tonnes estimated early in the beginning of this year. Production in India is expected to decline five per cent to 43,000 tonnes against 48,000 tonnes last year.

Global pepper consumption is expected to grow 3.03 per cent to 1.25 lakh tonnes.

Monsoon rains, weak global cues halt soya rally



Indore, July 23:

The rally seen in soya seed and soya oil for the past few days came to an end today on weak foreign support and revival of monsoon in the State. Fresh bout of rains lashing the State for the

past two days have helped standing crop of soyabean to a large extent, leading to a decline in buying support , said Mr Mukesh Purohit, a soya oil trader.

Encouraged by fresh monsoon showers, buying interest in both soyabean and oil remained sluggish. Soya refined on Monday declined to Rs 751-55 for 10 kg (Rs 755-58) on slack demand.

Similarly, soya solvent also traded lower at Rs 721-25 for 10 kg (Rs 725-30) on scattered buying support.

Soya oil futures also traded lower on weak global cues and slack buying support with August contract on the National Board of Trade here closing Rs 4.50 lower at Rs 799.50.

On the NCDEX also, soya oil traded lower on weak buying support with its August and October contracts closing at Rs 4,900 a quintal (down Rs 164.50) and Rs 4,028.50 (down Rs 167.50).

Traders are, however, sceptical about any major fall in soya oil in the coming days, considering a revival in demand ahead of the festival season next month.

Arrival of soyabean in State mandis declined to 15,000-20,000 bags on account of rains in various parts of the State. In mandis across Madhya Pradesh, soyabean declined by Rs 150 to Rs 4,750-4,850 a quintal.

Arrival in Indore mandis was recorded at merely 1,500 bags. Plant deliveries in soyabean also declined to Rs 4,900-50 on sluggish demand.

With monsoon eluding the State for over a week or so, prices of soyabean in State mandis and plant deliveries have been ruling high with plant deliveries in the past one month going as high as Rs 1,300 a quintal. Similarly soyabean prices went up by over Rs 1,000 a quintal in the past one month.

According to traders, if monsoon rains continued in the State at its present pace, soya seed prices will further decline in the coming days. On the other hand, bullish trend continued in soya DOC with prices in the domestic market going up to Rs 4,500 a quintal.

Aided by strong buying support from the domestic market, soya DOC prices in the past one week have gone up by Rs 3,500.

Limited buying by mills keeps cotton unchanged



Rajkot, July 23:

With limited demand from mills and restricted selling, cotton prices remained unchanged on Monday. According to traders, prices have gone up in the last week so buyers are inactive for a while.

A Rajkot-based cotton broker said, "Mills are buying in limited quantities and farmers and ginners are not releasing their stock which supports the cotton price to sustain on higher level. Moreover, no rains in production areas also add to the bullish morale."

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded at Rs 37,500-38,000 a candy of 356 kg. B-grade cotton ruled at Rs 37,300-37,500. Prices of New V 797 were at Rs 30,500-31,000. About 6,000-7,000 bales (of 170 kg) of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 14,000-15,000 bales arrived in India.

In Maharashtra A grade cotton (low micronaire) quoted at Rs 37,500-38,000 a candy and A grade high micronaire (29+ MM) quoted at 38,000-38,500.

Kapas was lower by Rs 5-7 to rule at Rs 900-1,005 for 20 kg at Rajkot.

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy in its monthly report said that cotton production is expected to fall by 7.8 per cent to 32.2 million bales in 2012-13 even though the acreage rose by over 12 per cent to 29.3 lakh hectares by June.

Edible oils rule steady on subdued demand

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, July 23:

Edible oil prices extended last week's gain marginally on Monday but overall sentiment remained weak due to subdued demand and lower closing of Malaysian palm oil futures on profit booking. In domestic market, imported palmolein and soya oil rose by Rs 2 for 10 kg each as local refineries have increased their rates. Sunflower expeller refined oil and cotton refined oil were up by Rs 5 each on concerns about deficit rain and lower crop estimates.

In Mumbai, physical volume was thin and isolated. Undercurrent was weak as traders expected more downside correction this week. A broker said in absence of fresh demand tracking weak foreign markets activities remained subdued during the day. Merely 80-100 tonnes of palmolein were resale traded at Rs 623-624. Domestic refineries have increased their rates for palmolein by another Rs 2-5 on higher import parity considering revision of tariff value of palmolein last week. Towards the end of the day, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 636, super palmolein at Rs 685, soya oil at Rs 772 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 772. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs

632-637 for August. Soya refined oil was Rs 763 up to August 10 and Rs 765-769 for whole August. Sunflower refined oil was at Rs 767 up to August 10 and Rs 769-771 for whole August. Allana's rate for palmolein was Rs 632 for 1-10 August. Bunge's rate was Rs 634. Vaibhavi's quoted palmolein at Rs 640 for 1-10 September.

In Saurashtra-Rajkot, groundnut oil was steady at Rs 1,840 for *Tellia* tin and Rs 1,200 for loose - 10kg. On the National Board of Trade – Indore, soya refined oil August futures closed at Rs 800 (Rs 811.80) while September was at Rs 810 (Rs 817.50).

Malaysia's crude palm oil August contracts settled lower at MYR 2,962 (MYR 3,010), September at MYR 2,976 (MYR 3,025) and October at MYR 2,990 (MYR 3,042) a tonne.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates were (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 1,180 (1,185), soya refined oil 762 (760), sunflower exp. ref. 710 (705), sunflower ref. 765 (765), rapeseed ref. oil 885 (885), rapeseed expeller ref. 855 (855) cotton ref. oil 755 (750) and palmolein 626 (624).

Pepper falls marginally

G. K. Nair

Kochi, July 23:

The pepper market declined marginally on Monday because of a tug-of-war between operators and consequent high volatility.

Some circular trading also seem to have taken place involving both sides. September opened at Rs 43,190 a quintal and dropped in the opening session itself by Rs 1,050 a quintal to 42,140 and then moved up to Rs 43,380 up by Rs1,240 a quintal from the lowest price of the day. Eventually it fell and ended marginally below the previous day's closing.

Prices decreased albeit marginally despite substantial increase in the open interest, sources told *Business Line*.

Meanwhile, one section of the trade was of the opinion that the market will collapse while another was hoping that by mid-August pepper prices will touch Rs 500 a kg, market sources said.

Some 20 to 22 tonnes of farm grade pepper were traded afloat at Rs 401, Rs 404, Rs 407 and Rs 409 depending upon the quality, grade and area of production.

As the weather remained favourable, good quantity of pepper was being deposited in the exchange and as a result the stocks as on Saturday was estimated at 1,750 tonnes.

August contract on the NCDEX declined by Rs 25 a quintal to the last traded price (LTP) of Rs 43,250, while September and October were down by Rs 55 and 180 respectively to the LTP of Rs 43,595 and 43,995 a quintal.

Turnover

Total turnover increased by 238 per cent to close at 5,056 tonnes. Total open interest increased by 368 tonnes to end at 6,641 tonnes, indicating that there might be selling and buying outside the exchange platform.

August open interest increased by 207 tonnes to 5,461 tonnes while that of September went up by 163 tonnes to 1,102 tonnes. October open interest declined by 2 tonnes.

Spot prices remained steady at Rs 40,100 (ungarbled) and Rs 41,600 (garbled) a quintal on matching demand and supply.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,975- \$8,200 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$8,275 - \$8,300 a tonne (c&f) USA and remained totally out priced.

Overseas trend

Lamongong pepper prices were reportedly down due to more new crop arrivals and “some selling pressure from farmers who are in need for money for Ramadan”, an overseas report said today.

L Asta was quoted at around \$6,200 a tonne (fob). However, the report said, Vietnam was seem to be “more or less unchanged”. FAQ 500 G/L was quoted at \$5,950 - \$5,960 a tonne (fob) while FAQ 550 G/L was at \$6,250 - \$6,260 a tonne (fob).

While Vietnam white pepper double washed was quoted at \$8,875 a tonne (fob). China white pepper FAQ was at \$8,900 a tonne (fob).

Aromatic rice gains steam on local, export demand



Karnal, July 23:

Overseas and domestic demand pushed up prices of aromatic varieties rice further in the market on Monday. But prices of non-basmati varieties remained almost unchanged on account of steady demand-supply situation.

Buying interest pushed aromatic varieties further up, said Mr Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company. Demand for aromatic rice has improved in domestic and overseas market over the last few days, he said. Traders expect these varieties may rule steady as the market sentiment is still positive, said Mr Amit.

The area under aromatic varieties has increased this year. Following lower rainfall and expectations of better returns, the area has increased, said market experts. Basmati varieties fetch better returns, requires less water and can be sown late – these are the factors that led to rise in the area, said experts.

The area under basmati varieties in Punjab may rise to 7,50,000 hectares this crop year, while in Haryana it may rise to 8,00,000 hectares, up 2.5 per cent.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) increased by Rs 150 and quoted at Rs 6,600-6,650 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 5,600, up Rs 100 from previous level.

Pure Basmati (raw) went up by Rs 80 and quoted at Rs 6,680, while pure basmati (sela) ruled around at Rs 5,450 a quintal, up Rs 50 from previous level. Duplicate basmati went up by Rs 100 and quoted at Rs 4,900-5,100 a quintal.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,550; Dubar was at Rs 2,800-3,000 and Mongra at Rs 2,100-2,325 a quintal.

On the other hand, non basmati varieties continued to rule firm at previous levels. PR-11 (sela) went for Rs 2,850 a quintal, while PR-11 (Raw) was at Rs 2,700-2,850. Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,000-2,250 a quintal while Permal (sela) went for Rs 1,900-2,200. PR-14 (steam) went for Rs 2,650-2,800 a quintal.

Sharbati (steam) quoted at Rs 3,800-3,900 while Sharbati (sela) sold at Rs 3,500-3,675 a quintal.

Sugar zooms to record Rs 3,600/quintal



Mumbai, July 23:

Sugar prices increased to a record high, topping Rs 3,600-mark on the Vashi wholesale market. Prices were up by Rs 75-80 a quintal on Monday. This has left traders worried and they have

renewed their demand for immediate release of additional free sale quota for the quarter ending September to curb the rise during festival season.

In the last one week, sugar prices have gone up by Rs 200-250 in the physical market tracking a rise of Rs 250-270 at the mill level. If the Centre does not release additional sugar quota, prices may top Rs 4,000 soon, said traders.

A spokesman of the Bombay Sugar Merchants' Association told *Business Line*: "We have written to the Government demanding immediate release of additional quota as the 45 lakh tonnes of free sale quota for the September quarter is not sufficient to meet the demand during festival season.

New crushing season is two months away and this year monsoon is also weak that will surely lead to a lower output next season".

Traders claim that expecting higher demand and on possibilities of higher exports, producers are not willing to sell at lower level.

Bullish domestic and international futures support the sentiment. Deficit rain so far has triggered concerns over potential impact on kharif production.

Traders said that with opening stocks of 50 lakh tonnes and the sugar production this year is expected at 260 lakh tonnes, the total availability will be 310 lakh tonnes.

Out of this, the domestic demand is about 230 lakh tonnes and considering 35 lakh tonnes exports there is a sufficient stock carryover available. .

In Vashi market, arrivals were 54-55 truckloads and local dispatches were 51-52 loads.

On Saturday, 20-22 mills sold about 84,000 – 85,000 bags (of 100 kgs each) to the local traders in the range of Rs 3,320-3,400 (Rs 3,250-3,330) for S-grade and Rs 3,420-3,450 (Rs 3,350-3,430) for M-grade.

Market players were expecting higher tender rates from producers late evening.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates (Rs/quintal): S-grade Rs 3,472-3,535 (Rs 3,391-3,461) and M-grade Rs 3,521- 3,621 (Rs 3,461- 3,541).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 3,450 -3,500 (Rs 3,390 -3,420) and M-grade Rs 3,500-3,570 (Rs 3,430-3,480).

New buyers building turmeric stocks



Erode, July 23:

Spot turmeric prices increased on Monday as new buyers indulged in largescale buying in Erode markets.

“Many new buyers have started purchasing huge stocks of turmeric. So, prices are increasing on a daily basis. However, stocks do not get liquidated as stockists are building inventories. They will bring the produce back to the market when prices go up. For the past 20 days, no exporter or bulk buyer has shown interest as they feel ‘the present trend is not a healthy one’, and have not yet received any fresh orders from North India”, said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said there is no panic buying as the stocks are purchased only by stockists and not traders. He said that due to heavy rain in Andhra Pradesh, sales in Nizamabad have been affected. The futures have shot up to Rs 6,200 a quintal, which reflects in the local market. Stockists are quoting higher prices and indulging in largescale buying.

Mr Ravishankar said by the first week or in the middle of August, exporters will get orders from North India. Till then, there would be some fluctuations in the price. Further, if stockists stop buying, prices will drop.

On Monday, 5,700 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, 75 per cent of the stocks were sold, procured by the stockists. Price of the finger variety rose by Rs 600 a quintal and the root variety Rs 400 a quintal. The fine hybrid variety increased by Rs 150 a quintal. In the

Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at par with the hybrid Salem Crop.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the price of finger variety touched Rs 6,700 a quintal. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 3,270-6,109 a quintal, the root variety Rs 3,119-5,365.

Salem Crop: Finger variety was sold at Rs 5,909-6,666 a quintal, while root variety was sold at Rs 5,366-5,806. Of the 783 bags that arrived, 451 were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 6,139-6,719 , root variety at Rs 5,899-6,169. All the 617 bags of turmeric up for sale were sold. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,899-6,666 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 3,016-6,196. All the 214 bags on offer were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,367-6,699 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 5,309-6,009. All the 981 bags of turmeric kept for sales were sold.

Spot rubber declines on global cues



Kottayam, July 23:

Domestic rubber prices declined on Monday. The markets fell, following sharp declines in international indices as intensified worries over the Euro Zone debt crisis dragged down natural rubber along with other commodities and equities globally.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 180 from Rs 183 and Rs 182.50 a kg respectively, according to traders and the Rubber Board. According to observers, there were no buyers on the grade even at lower levels.

In the futures market, the August series declined to Rs 175.51 (179.06), September to Rs 174.70 (177.99), October to Rs 175.50 (178.26) and November to Rs 175.20 (177.25) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

The Shanghai rubber futures hit its daily lower limit, while TOCOM rubber futures shed more than four per cent to land on a three week low. Deteriorating financial health of Spain, the Euro Zone's fourth largest economy is expected to worsen the situations in the area.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs 171.71 (174.02) a kg at Bangkok. The July futures nosedived to ¥223 (Rs 159.51) from ¥234 during the day session and then to ¥219 (Rs 156.59) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 180 (183); RSS-5: 175 (177); ungraded: 168.50 (172); ISNR 20: 172 (175) and latex 60 per cent: 129.50 (130.50).

Mixed trend at Kochi tea sale



Kochi, July 23:

A mixed trend persisted for almost all varieties of tea at the Kochi tea auction last week. The quantity on offer in the CTC dust category was 11,90,000 kg. The market was dearer by Rs 2-4 and sometimes more, following quality. However, medium and plainer teas were barely steady and appreciated by Re 1-Rs 2, the auctioneers Forbes, Ewart and Figgis (P) Ltd said.

Of the 21,500 kg on offer in the orthodox dust category, the market was barely steady to lower with many withdrawals. Bulk of the offerings was absorbed by exporters.

In the best CTC dusts, prices for PD varieties quoted at Rs 92-107; RD varieties Rs 92-107; SRD Rs 99-115 and SFD Rs 100-119. The orthodox leaf category witnessed a good demand and 1,86,500 kg was on offer. Highgrown bolder brokens whole leaf and smaller brokens were firm to dearer by Rs 3-5. Better highgrown fannings remained steady. Medium whole leaf, bolder brokens and all varieties appreciated in value with longer margins of Rs 5-10. Other grades were irregular. In the CTC leaf category, the quantity on offer was 76,000 kg. There was a good demand as better liquoring varieties were steady to firm. In the dust varieties, Injipara (Prm) SRD quoted Rs 143 followed by Injipara (Prm) SFD at Rs 139. In the leaf grades, Chamraj FOP green tea quoted Rs 305 followed by Pascoes Woodlands green tea at Rs 286.

Marriages in Hyderabad help cut-flowers bloom

Anil Urs



Bangalore, July 23:

Cut flowers prices have increased by 10-15 per cent in the last two months at the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB). Flower prices are higher in Bangalore due to demand from Hyderabad.

Prices of cut-flowers in June-July trade between Rs 2 and Rs 2.50 for a stem.

“In Karnataka, *Ashada* (June-July period) is considered inauspicious to perform marriages or any other ceremonies; this saw poor sales of cut-flowers,” said Dr G. Shankara Murthy, General Manager, IFAB.

“Normally, not many weddings take place in the State during *Ashada* and prices fall by 50-60 per cent,” he said.

Though *Ashada* is observed in Andhra Pradesh, too, this time there has been an extended marriage period.

Some non-resident Indians had performed marriages for their children to meet the visa deadlines. Again from next week, the marriage season begins.

IFAB Ltd is a joint venture company, set up by the Karnataka Government with the private exporters, to conduct regular auctions and promote floriculture exports from the State.

The marriage and festival season, which begin from July-end in South India are expected to result in increased demand again, the IFAB official said. The demand for flowers such as roses, tulips, gerberas and orchids extends up to November, except during the cyclone season when sales and production fall sharply.

Dr Jayaprakash Rao, General Secretary, South India Floriculture Association, said: “The start of the marriage and festival season in South India is expected to push up prices of cut flowers by 15-20 per cent this year due to dry weather in the State.”

The flower growing belt of Doddaballapur and Hosur area near Bangalore has been partially affected due to deficient monsoon.

Mr Rao said: “Some floriculture units are facing severe water shortage and are forced to depend on fast depleting ground water to maintain their farms.”

Karnataka’s cut flower production is estimated between 9 lakh and 10 lakh stems.

Of this, around two lakh enter the IFAB auction platforms and the rest are traded in unorganised markets.

ITA seeks duty drawback hike on tobacco exports

Our Bureau



Guntur, July 23:

The Indian Tobacco Association has urged the Union Commerce Ministry to hike the duty drawback from one per cent on export of unmanufactured tobacco to 5.5 per cent. It has also sought extension of the scheme to all products, including tobacco refuse and by-products.

According to a press release here, the ITA represented the issue to the Tobacco Board Chairman, Mr G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, who in turn took it to the notice of the Union Commerce Ministry officials at an open house conducted in Hyderabad recently. The ITA also sought interest subvention of two per cent on tobacco export finance to unmanufactured tobacco as well, treating it as processed agri produce. Service tax exemption on tobacco at all stages was also sought.