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Pak Promises MFN Status to India by Year End

Pakistan is on track for granting its neighbour - and often political rival - India most favoured nation (MFN) status by year's end, Pakistan's commerce secretary confirmed last week. The two sides also recently outlined a timeline for reducing their sensitive lists for each others' imports under the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement, as part of their ongoing efforts to boost bilateral trade ties.

According to comments made by Pakistani Commerce Secretary Munir Qureshi on Thursday, Islamabad is well on its way to removing its 'negative list' for products from New Delhi - in other words, those items that India cannot export to Pakistan - by the end of December and give India MFN status.

Back in March, Pakistani officials announced that this negative list would be replacing Islamabad's long-standing 'positive list', which had allowed imports of fewer than 2,000 items from India.

Required of all WTO members, MFN status mandates that each nation must treat trade with all members equally. Although India granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996, Islamabad had previously refused to reciprocate due to ongoing disagreements between the two neighbours over the Kashmir region. Last November, however, Pakistan's cabinet unanimously agreed to begin the process of granting India MFN treatment.

Qureshi also confirmed last week that Islamabad plans to reduce its sensitive list under SAFTA - which specifies which items a country can exclude from tariff concessions - from approximately 1000 products from India to 100 by 2017, in line

with statements made by officials from both sides last month.

India, in turn, plans to bring its sensitive list of products from Pakistan down to 100 items by 2013.

Along with India and Pakistan, SAFTA also includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Ongoing efforts to boost bilateral trade spark scepticism among some industries

The Pakistani commerce minister's remarks last Thursday come just weeks after the two sides inked three new agreements at removing trade barriers. However, some industry officials have lately expressed concern over the possible adverse effects of boosting the currently limited trade between the two neighbours.

The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), for instance, has argued that - unless India reduces its own non-tariff barriers - the removal of the negative list and reduction in the sensitive list will lead to disastrous results for the country's auto industry.

Islamabad "has not prepared itself for phasing out the negative list," PAAPAM Chairman Munir Bana told Pakistani newspaper The Nation last week. Furthermore, the government is not ready "to face the onslaught of Indian products" that could result from the proposed reduction to Pakistan's sensitive list, the official continued.

According to Qureshi, however, the timeline of the sensitive list reduction is meant to give Pakistani businesses five years to prepare to compete against Indian imports.



Indonesia and Montenegro Join AGP as Observers

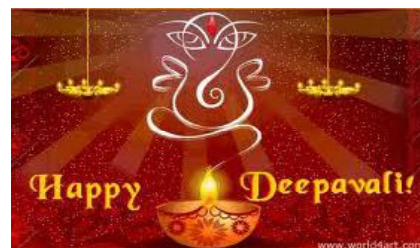
The Committee on Government Procurement, on 31 October 2012, approved requests by Indonesia and Montenegro, respectively, for observer status. The decisions bring to 25 governments the total number of observers to the plurilateral Government Procurement Agreement.

Indonesia, in thanking the Committee, said that it had undertaken significant reforms in its government procurement system in recent years, and stressed the importance of transparency in combatting corruption. It expressed the hope that its observer status in the Committee will help it move towards its target of more transparent and competitive government procurement regulations.

The European Union, United States, Switzerland, Japan, Singapore, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Norway, Liechtenstein and Hong Kong, China welcomed Indonesia as an observer, and urged the country to apply to become a full-fledged Party to the Agreement.

In congratulating Montenegro on its acceptance as an observer, several delegations referred to the commitment that

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Montenegro assumed, when it became a WTO member earlier this year, to also apply for GPA accession. They made clear that they stood ready to support Montenegro through its eventual accession to the Agreement.

On another matter, the United States reported to the Committee that a state court had issued an injunction on a Florida state law banning

participation in government procurement by businesses that have dealings with Cuba or Syria. It added that this injunction had been appealed by Florida to a higher court but that in the meantime, the law is not being implemented. The European Union and Canada said they would continue to follow this matter closely.

China Broadens Solar Dumping Probe to Polysilicon

Chinese regulators ratcheted up the global fight over the troubled solar-energy industry on Thursday as it launched a probe into the trade practices of European solar raw-materials suppliers.

China's Ministry of Commerce said Thursday that it has launched an investigation into whether European companies are selling polysilicon, used to make solar panels, at unfairly low prices. It will also probe whether the companies received illegal subsidies.

European officials couldn't be immediately reached for comment. Chinese officials didn't name specific companies.

The move is part of the escalating fight between China and its trading partners over the solar power sector this year. The European Union announced in September that it would investigate Chinese imports of solar panels, while Indian companies have lobbied their government to do the same.

The U.S. Commerce Department has already announced provisional anti-subsidy and anti-dumping tariffs on imports of Chinese solar panels and cells. The U.S. tariffs will take effect if the U.S. International Trade Commission determines that Chinese dumping of solar products injured U.S. companies. Its decision is expected this month.

A wave of bankruptcies has hit major solar companies in both the U.S. and Germany over the past year due to an industry-wide decline in

prices and economic problems in some key markets. German conglomerate Siemens AG SIE.XE +0.44% said last month that it planned to pull out of the solar business due to sinking prices and cutbacks in government support for solar-thermal projects.

China's Ministry of Commerce said in separate statements on Thursday that there is enough evidence to move ahead with its own investigation into European imports, which will be combined with existing anti-subsidy and anti-dumping probes of U.S. and South Korean imports launched earlier this year.

The investigation could take up to a year, with a possible extension through the end of April 2014, it said.

China's imports of EU polysilicon jumped 30.8% in the first half of 2012 compared with the same period a year earlier, reaching 9,300 metric tons, the state-run Xinhua news agency has said, citing the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association.

In the same period, prices for polysilicon in China fell to \$27.50 a ton, a decline of 47.5% from a year earlier, Xinhua said, citing the association.

The commerce industry was urged to initiate an investigation on behalf of four major Chinese polysilicon manufacturers, it said. The move also comes after the ministry said in August that preliminary evidence showed that U.S. government support for six clean-energy projects in five U.S. states violated World Trade Organization rules.



Laos, Tajikistan Join Queue for Entry into WTO

Accession of Laos to add another LDC to WTO roster

WTO members formally approved Laos' accession protocol on 26 October, leaving domestic ratification as the last remaining step before it can join the organisation. Once it accedes, the small Asian nation - formally known as the Lao People's Democratic Republic - will be the sixth least developed country (LDC) to finish negotiations to join the trade body since 1995.

Samoa and Vanuatu were the most recent LDCs to join the WTO, with both of their memberships taking effect this same year.

Despite being one of the most impoverished countries in the region, the small Communist nation has posted strong economic growth in recent years, with the Asian Development Bank projecting earlier this month that Laos' GDP growth for 2012 would hit a rate of 7.9 percent. The growth largely stems from a natural re-

sources boom, specifically in hydropower and mining. However, Laos still struggles with being strongly dependent on a few industries, and faces high transport costs due to being landlocked.

The struggles Laos faced during its 15-year accession process - both in negotiations with current members, and in the reforms it has had to make at home - was referred to by various officials at Friday's General Council meeting.

Tajikistan in final accession stages

Tajikistan, meanwhile, had its accession terms approved on 26 October by the Working Party tasked with its membership negotiations, leaving General Council approval in December and subsequent domestic ratification as the only pending steps in the process. The small former Soviet economy began its efforts to join the Geneva-based organisation in 2001.

Tajikistan's progress in its accession is "a sign of solid confidence in the WTO and in the multilateral trading system," Lamy said on Friday. "Accession to the WTO will firmly integrate Tajikistan into the global economy and the global trading system, providing an open, transparent, and non-discriminatory environment."

Under the negotiated membership terms, Dushanbe has committed to joining the Information Technology Agreement - a plurilateral deal under the auspices of the WTO whose product coverage some members are looking to expand - upon its accession to the global trade body.

The Central Asian country has also pledged to apply to join the Government Procurement Agreement - another plurilateral deal under the WTO - within a year of its accession.

WTO members, meeting in their capacity as the General Council in December, are expected to formally sign off on Tajikistan's accession terms at that time. Tajikistan will then have until 7 June 2013 to ratify the deal; it will become a full member 30 days after notifying the WTO of ratification.

India Must Tax Palm Oil Imports to Aid Farmers, Says Godrej

India, the biggest palm oil buyer, needs to impose a duty on imports to protect oilseed growers from cheaper overseas supplies as a surge in inventories in Southeast Asia lowers prices.

India should levy a tax of 10 percent on crude palm oil, Dorab Mistry, director at Godrej International Ltd., said in New Delhi on 4 November. Palm oil comprises almost 80 percent of India's cooking-oil imports.

Palm oil, used in everything from biofuels to candy to noodles, has fallen 21 percent this year as inventories surge in Indonesia and Malaysia, which account for 87 percent of world supply, and a global economic slowdown curbs demand. The plunge may cut revenues for producers including Sime Darby Bhd. (SIME) and IOI Corp. (IOI) and cap increases in food costs.

"The government should impose a duty on imports of crude palm oil to protect farmers and use the money in long-term development of oilseed cultivation," said Davish Jain, managing director of Prestige Group of Industries, one of India's biggest processors of soybean and exporters of soybean meal. "Unbridled imports would be counter-productive for the growth of indigenous oilseed production."

Palm oil for January delivery dropped 1.6 percent to 2,496 ringgit (\$817) a metric ton on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange in Kuala Lumpur on Nov. 2. Inventories jumped to an all-time high of 2.48 million tons in September, while output gained to 2 million tons, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board.

Indonesia and Malaysia will have record stockpiles of palm oil at the beginning of next year, while production of soybeans will climb in the first quarter of 2013 in South America along with excellent harvests of sunflower in Argentina and mustard in India, said Mistry, who has traded palm oil for 35 years. This may be followed by a switch in some plantings from corn to soybeans in the U.S., he said.

WEEKLY INDEX OF CHANGES

Packaging Quantity Standardized for 19 Commodities Measures to Apply from 1 Nov 2012

[Ref: PIB Press Release dated 1 November 2012]

In the interest of common consumer, from 1 November onwards 19 commodities of day- to-day use, like bread biscuits, tea etc. can be sold in specified standard packs only. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had issued a notice on June 5, 2012 in this regard by amending Legal Metrological (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. Manufacture, packing or import of these 19 commodities in non-standard packs will invite penal action.

These 19 commodities and their specified packaging standards are as follows:

Sl. No.	Commodities	Quantities in which to be packed
1.	Baby food	25g, 50g, 100g, 200g, 300g, 350g, 400g, 450g, 500g, 600g, 700 g, 800 g, 900g, 1 kg, 2kg, 5 kg and 10 kg.
2.	Weaning food.	Below 50g no restriction, 50 g, 100g, 200g, 300g, 400g, 500g, 600g, 700g, 800g, 900g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg and 10 kg.
3.	Biscuits	25g, 50g, 60g, 75g, 100g, 120g, 150g, 200g, 250g, 300g, thereafter in multiples of 100g up to 1 kg and thereafter in multiples of 500g up to 5 kg.
4.	Bread including brown bread but excluding bun.	50g and thereafter in of multiples 50g upto 500g and above 500g in the multiples of 100g.
5.	Un-canned packages of butter and margarine	Below 25g no restriction, 25 g, 50 g, 100 g, 200 g, 500 g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg, and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg.
6.	Cereals and Pulses	Below 100g no restriction, 100g, 200g, 500g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg and thereafter multiples of 5 kg
7.	Coffee	Below 25g no restriction, 25g, 50g, 75g, 100g, 150g, 200g, 250g, 500g, 1kg, 1.5kg, 2kg and thereafter in multiples of 1kg.
8.	Tea	Below 25g no restriction, 25g, 50g, 100g, 125g 250g, 500g, 1kg and thereafter in multiples of 1kg.
9.	Materials which may be constituted or reconstituted as beverages	Below 50g no restriction, 50 g, 75g, 100 g, 200 g, 250g, 400g, 450g, 500 g, 750g, 1 kg and thereafter in multiples of 1 kg.; (56g and 61g for medical purpose only)
10.	Edible Oils Vanaspati, ghee, butter oil	50 g, 100 g, 200 g, 250g, 500 g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 5 kg and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg. If net quantity is declared by volume then 50ml, 100ml, 200ml, 250ml, 500ml, 1 litre, 2 litre, 3 litre, 5 litre and thereafter in multiple of 5 litre and the net quantity must be declared by mass also in the same size of letters/ numerals
11.	Milk Powder.	Below 50g no restriction, 50 g, 100g, 150g, 200g, 250g, 500 g, 1 kg and thereafter in multiples of 500 g.
12.	Non-soapy detergents (powder)	Below 50 g no restriction, 50g, 75g, 100g, 150g, 200g, 250g, 500g, 700g, 750g, 1kg, 1.5 kg, 2 kg and thereafter, in multiples of 1 kg.
13.	Rice(powdered), flour, atta, rawa and suji	100g, 200g, 500g, 1kg, 1.25kg, 1.5kg, 1.75kg, 2kg, 5 kg and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg.
14.	Salt	Below 50g in multiples of 10g, 50g, 100g, 200g, 500g, 750g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg.

Two Year Validity to Continue for Duty Credit Scrips Issued upto 26 July 2012, 18 Months for those Issued After

Subject:- Para 5 of Public Notice No. 12 (RE -2012)/2009-14 dated 26th July, 2012.

07-Pol.Cir 25.10.2012 (DGFT) Chapter 3 was reduced from 24 months to 18 months vide Public Notice No. 12 dated 26.7.2012. This Public Notice was deemed to

have been issued on 05.06.2012 so as to make these provisions consistent with the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) announced on 05.06.2012 and to avoid inconvenience to trade and industry.

2. RAs have issued duty credit scrips during this period i.e. from 05.06.2012 to 26.7.2012 with a validity of 24 months. Keeping in view this situation and in order to avoid any increased transaction cost to exporters, it is clarified that duty credit scrips issued upto 26.07.2012 will continue to have validity of 24 months and duty credit scrips issued after 26.7.2012 will have validity of 18 months.

3. This issues with the approval of Director General of Foreign Trade.

15. Soaps	
(a) Laundry Soap	25g, 50g, 75g, 100g, 125g, 150g and thereafter in multiples of 50g.
(b) Non-soapy detergent cakes/ bars.	Below 50g no restriction, 50g, 75g, 100g, 125g, 150g, 200g, 250g, 300g and thereafter in multiples of 100g
(c) Toilet Soap including all kinds of bath soap (cakes).	15g, 25g, 50g, 60g, 75g, 100g, 125g, 150g and thereafter in multiples of 50g.
16. Aerated soft drinks, non-alcoholic beverages.	65 ml (fruit based drinks only), 100 ml, 125ml(fruit based drinks only), 150 ml, 160ml, 175ml, 180ml, 200 ml, 240ml, 250 ml, 300 ml, 330ml(in cans only), 350ml, 400ml, 475ml, 500 ml, 600ml, 750 ml, 1 litre, 1.2 litre, 1.25 litre, 1.5 litre, 1.75 litre, 2 litre, 2.25 litre, 2.5 litre, 3 litre, 4 litre and 5 litre.
17. Mineral water and drinking water	100 ml, 150 ml, 200 ml, 250 ml, 300 ml, 500 ml, 750 ml, 1 litre, 1.5 litre, 2 litre, 3 litre, 4 litre, 5 litre and in multiples of 5 litre.
18. Cement in bags.	1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg, 20 kg, 25 kg, 40 kg (for White cement only) and 50 kg.
19. Paint varnish etc.	
(a) Paint (other than paste paint or solid paint) varnish, varnish stains, enamels.	50 ml, 100 ml, 200 ml, 500 ml, 1 litre, 2 litre, 3 litre, 4 litre, 5 litre and thereafter in multiples of 5 litre.
(b) Paste paint and solid paint	500g, 1 kg, 1.5 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 5 kg, 7kg and thereafter multiple of 5 kg.
(c) Base paint:	100ml, 250ml, 400ml, 450 ml, 500 ml, 900 ml, 925 ml, 950 ml, 975 ml, 1 litre, 1.5 litre, 2.0 litre, 2.5 litre, 3.5 litre, 3.6 litre, 3.7 litre, 3.8 litre, 3.9 litre and 4 litre and no restriction above 4 litre.

However non-standard packs which have already been manufactured and packed on or before 31st October, 2012 and are ready for sale in different retail outlets, have been exempted from penal action. Controllers of Legal Metrology in all the states and UTs have been asked to ensure strict compliance of the order.

World Prices of Energy, Food Fall in October

In October 2012, energy and non-energy prices fell by 2.4% and 1.6%, respectively. Food prices dropped by 4.0%, beverages declined by 3.6%, raw materials edged up by 1.0%, metals increased by 1.4% and fertilizers eased by 0.8%.

Up ↑

Natural gas
Maize; Thai rice A.1; Wheat US, HRW; Bananas, Europe;
Beef and Chicken meat; Shrimp; World sugar
Cameroon Logs and Plywood; Rubber; Urea; Iron ore; Tin
Gold, Silver and Platinum

Down ↓

Coal; Crude oil;
Cocoa; Coffee and Tea;

Coconut oil, Copra, Groundnuts, Groundnut oil, Palm oil, Palm kernel oil, Soybeans and Soybean meal; Barley
Rice; Wheat US SRW; Bananas, US and Oranges
Fishmeal and Sheep meat;
Malaysian Logs; Sawwood; Cotton; Potassium chloride and TSP
Aluminium, Copper, Lead, Nickel and Zinc

Steady ↔

DAP and Rock Phosphate



	Monthly averages			Quarterly averages					Annual averages			
	2012			2011		2012			2010	2011	2012	
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Oct	
Energy												
Coal, Australia \$/mt	91.00	88.96	82.40	↓	121.32	114.91	113.65	95.54	89.40	98.97	121.45	97.82
Coal, Colombia \$/mt	85.82	81.10	77.80	↓	113.92	101.18	91.77	82.22	82.68	77.97	111.5	84.78
Coal, South Africa \$/mt	89.11	85.82	82.60	↓	116.72	106.85	105.00	93.47	87.42	91.62	116.3	94.03
Crude oil, average \$/bbl	105.27	106.28	103.41	↓	103.07	103.16	112.52	102.83	102.77	79.04	104.01	105.77
Crude oil, Brent \$/bbl	113.34	113.38	111.97	↓	112.47	109.29	118.60	108.86	109.95	79.64	110.94	112.42
Crude oil, Dubai \$/bbl	108.37	110.96	108.73	↓	107.01	106.16	116.07	106.18	106.18	78.06	106.03	109.4
Crude oil, West Texas Int. \$/bbl	94.11	94.51	89.52	↓	89.73	94.03	102.88	93.44	92.17	79.43	95.05	95.5
Natural gas Index 2005=100	108.3	106.6	112.4	↑	138.2	111.3	106.4	106.3	108.0	91.1	113.8	107.5
Natural gas, Europe \$/mmbtu	11.18	11.08	11.58	↑	10.88	11.42	11.51	11.52	11.13	8.29	10.52	11.41
Natural gas, US \$/mmbtu	2.84	2.84	3.32	↑	8.44	3.32	2.46	2.28	2.88	4.39	5.08	2.61
Natural gas LNG, Japan \$/mmbtu	17.74	16.80	16.65	↓	16.35	16.58	16.36	17.06	17.55	10.85	14.66	16.96
Beverages												
Cocoa ¢/kg	251.2	262.0	246.4	↓	303.5	246.8	234.1	228.2	249.4	313.3	298.0	238.1
Coffee, arabica ¢/kg	385.4	394.6	382.1	↓	597.7	536.2	486.9	400.4	400.0	432.0	597.6	424.4
Coffee, robusta ¢/kg	234.8	231.4	230.3	↓	243.1	215.9	222.1	231.0	234.1	173.6	240.8	229.2
Tea, auctions (3) avg. ¢/kg	311.7	311.9	306.8	↓	300.3	279.5	254.9	292.2	308.9	288.5	292.1	287.5
Tea, Colombo auctions ¢/kg	306.6	318.8	315.9	↓	313.0	316.7	292.7	304.7	308.1	329.0	326.4	303.3
Tea, Kolkata auctions ¢/kg	320.4	313.5	316.6	↑	312.8	256.4	205.3	289.9	315.0	280.5	277.9	274.7
Tea, Mombasa auctions ¢/kg	308.3	303.5	288.0	↓	275.3	265.4	266.7	282.0	303.5	256.0	271.9	284.5
Fats and Oils												
Coconut oil \$/mt	1,001	967	898	↓	1,474	1,377	1,400	1,187	1,013	1,124	1,730	1,170
Copra \$/mt	656	645	591	↓	991	917	933	793	672	750	1,157	778
Groundnuts \$/mt	1,850	1,550	1,488	↓	2,234	2,646	2,800	2,617	1,858	1,284	2,086	2,331
Groundnut oil \$/mt	2,553	2,408	2,375	↓	2,155	2,245	n.a.	n.a.	2,476	1,404	1,988	n.a.
Palm oil \$/mt	997	967	839	↓	1,079	1,025	1,107	1,088	993	901	1,125	1,040
Palmkernel oil \$/mt	1,008	984	862	↓	1,338	1,250	1,366	1,242	1,020	1,184	1,648	1,175
Soybean meal \$/mt	644	646	601	↓	399	357	392	488	630	378	398	513
Soybean oil \$/mt	1,252	1,283	1,175	↓	1,324	1,214	1,253	1,236	1,258	1,005	1,299	1,242
Soybeans \$/mt	684	670	617	↓	553	488	518	572	672	450	541	590
Grains												
Barley \$/mt	265.7	256.2	252.9	↓	210.4	210.9	215.6	237.8	258.4	158.4	207.2	238.8
Maize \$/mt	332.0	320.8	321.2	↑	302.1	269.3	277.7	270.2	328.6	185.9	291.7	295.1
Rice, Thailand, 5% \$/mt	567.8	563.3	558.3	↓	567.7	600.1	542.5	582.8	568.3	488.9	543	563.9
Rice, Thailand, 25% \$/mt	545.0	544	533	↓	532.0	570.0	534.0	n.a.	548	441.5	506	n.a.
Rice, Thai, A.1 \$/mt	509.0	512.0	520.3	↑	476.2	527.6	520.4	545.4	513.3	383.7	458.6	525.7
Rice, Vietnam 5% \$/mt	436.4	455.2	452.6	↓	544.8	551.2	436.9	428.7	433.6	429.2	513.6	435



	Monthly averages			Quarterly averages					Annual averages		
	2012			2011		2012			2010	2011	2012
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Oct
Sorghum \$/mt	n.a.	n.a.	283.1	287.5	261.8	269.6	235.8	n.a.	165.4	268.7	n.a.
Wheat, Canada \$/mt	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	429.8	405.2	378.1	n.a.	312.4	439.6	n.a.
Wheat, US, HRW \$/mt	349.4	353.4	358.2	↑	315.6	279.7	278.8	269.0	349.5	223.6	316.3
Wheat, US, SRW \$/mt	333.7	343.6	340.2	↓	270.5	250.5	258.9	251.8	333.4	229.7	285.9
Other Food											
Bananas, Europe \$/mt	985	1,112	1,117	↑	1,030	968	1,143	1,171	982	1,002	1,125
Bananas, US \$/mt	951	965	956	↓	953	951	1,052	979	960	868	968
Fishmeal \$/mt	1,697	1,675	1,635	↓	1,426	1,336	1,300	1,481	1,677	1,688	1,537
Meat, beef ¢/kg	404.1	397.4	401.0	↑	393.8	407.2	424.7	413.0	400.1	335.1	404.2
Meat, chicken ¢/kg	209.5	210.9	211.3	↑	194.3	197.0	201.6	207.1	209.7	189.2	192.6
Meat, sheep ¢/kg	581.6	588.2	586.6	↓	686.5	660.2	644.5	618.3	587.5	531.4	663.1
Oranges \$/mt	970	1,001	973	↓	1,038	824	771	844	995	1,033	891
Shrimp, Mexico ¢/kg	970	970	981	↑	1,198	1,085	1,055	977	970	1,004	1,193
Sugar, EU ¢/kg	40.51	42.04	42.35	↑	46.13	44.01	42.85	41.91	40.90	44.18	45.46
Sugar, US ¢/kg	63.36	57.9	52.54	↓	86.72	82.09	75.66	66.63	61.50	79.25	83.92
Sugar, world ¢/kg	46.03	44.07	44.78	↑	60.72	53.29	52.75	47.05	46.85	46.93	57.32
Timber											
Logs, Cameroon \$/cum	431.0	447.4	450.7	↑	515.1	483.0	463.6	452.6	436.2	428.6	484.8
Logs, Malaysia \$/cum	354.7	353.3	350.2	↓	444.7	409.0	373.3	361.0	355.1	278.2	390.5
Plywood ¢/sheets	606.7	608.1	610.2	↑	621.0	617.5	612.8	609.9	607.1	569.1	607.5
Sawnwood, Cameroon \$/cum	749.6	768.5	766.5	↓	823.1	774.6	755.5	760.7	755.2	812.7	825.8
Sawnwood, Malaysia \$/cum	856.7	878.2	873.4	↓	965.2	911.8	882.9	883.8	864.3	848.3	939.4
Woodpulp \$/mt	733.4	720.3	708.0	↓	930.5	834.6	781.1	786.8	735.2	866.8	899.6
Other Raw Materials											
Cotton A Index ¢/kg	186.1	185.5	178.6	↓	259.4	228.4	221.5	198.9	185.6	228.3	332.9
Rubber, RSS3 ¢/kg	279.3	303.8	320.4	↑	465.3	360.6	385.3	359.1	297.0	365.4	482.3
Rubber, TSR20 ¢/kg	259.5	276.3	295.4	↑	456.5	358.7	368.8	330.1	275.0	338.1	451.9
Fertilizers											
DAP \$/mt	559.0	573.0	573.0	↔	650.8	605.7	516.6	545.2	565.0	500.7	618.9
Phosphate rock \$/mt	185.0	185.0	185.0	↔	197.5	201.3	195.8	179.4	183.3	123.0	184.9
Potassium chloride \$/mt	467.5	464.3	440.2	↓	471.3	473.0	479.8	461.3	464.8	331.9	435.3
TSP \$/mt	485.0	485.0	474.0	↓	558.3	564.2	440.4	470.4	485.0	381.9	538.3
Urea \$/mt	374.9	384.5	396.0	↑	485.4	437.3	387.3	470.0	381.3	288.6	421.0
Metals and Minerals											
Aluminum \$/mt	1,845	2,064	1,974	↓	2,399	2,094	2,179	1,982	1,929	2,173	2,401
Copper \$/mt	7,516	8,088	8,062	↓	8,984	7,514	8,318	7,889	7,729	7,535	8,828
Iron ore \$/dmt	107.5	99.5	114.0	↑	175.9	140.8	141.8	139.6	111.6	145.9	167.8
Lead ¢/kg	190.1	217.8	214.2	↓	245.5	199.2	209.1	197.9	198.7	214.8	240.1
Nickel \$/mt	15,735	17,288	17,169	↓	22,024	18,393	19,636	17,186	16,384	21,809	22,910
Tin ¢/kg	1,877	2,077	2,123	↑	2,466	2,085	2,291	2,063	1,936	2,041	2,605
Zinc ¢/kg	181.8	201	190.4	↓	222.4	190.4	202.5	193.2	189.2	216.1	219.4
Precious Metals											
Gold \$/toz	1,630	1,745	1,747	↑	1,701	1,682	1,692	1,612	1,656	1,225	1,569
Platinum \$/toz	1,453	1,624	1,636	↑	1,771	1,529	1,604	1,500	1,501	1,610	1,719
Silver ¢/toz	2,880	3,361	3,319	↓	3,880	3,179	3,258	2,941	2,995	2,015	3,522

\$ = US dollar; ¢ = US cent; bbl = barrel; cum = cubic meter; dmtu = Dry Metric Ton Unit; kg = kilogram; mmbtu = million British thermal units; mt = metric ton; toz = troy oz; n.a. = not available; n.q. = no quotation

Computerised Out of Charge Certificates Must for Clearance at Customs Gate

Subject: Clearance of containers and imported goods

CBEC Instrctn Instances have come to 29.10.2012 notice of the Board that clearance of some containers were allowed without filing of Bill of Entry and payment of Customs duty by using forged signatures of Customs officials on manual Out of Charge orders (gate passes) leading to substantial loss of revenue to the Government exchequer. These cases highlight the high propensity to commit fraud and duty evasion. 2. The matter has been examined in the Board. In order to redress the issue and to prevent fraud in future, it has been decided that Commissioners concerned shall develop a proper gate management system where Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Docks / Import Shed and Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Special Intelligence & Investigation Branch (SIIB) would carry out surprise checks at out gate and verify authenticity of the gate passes issued by the custodian. Further, Out of Charge orders must be computerized and manual Out of Charge

orders should be allowed only in the rarest of rare and genuine cases. Also specimen signature of the officers posted in Docks / Import Shed should be made available at the out gate for verification. Further manual Out of Charge orders (gate passes) booklets, official stationery, stamp etc. should be kept in safe custody. Due care should also be taken to verify the particulars in the Bill of Entry and other important documents.

3. The Board desires that aforementioned instructions are complied with strictly and special care taken by field formation to avoid any cases of misuse in future. Needless to say any failure in complying with these instructions will have a revenue angle, and hence inevitable consequences including fixing accountability on erring officer(s).

4. These instructions may be brought to the notice of all the officers concerned by issuing suitable Standing Orders/instructions/Public Notices.
F.No.450/24/2012-Cus.IV

Ruled and Plain Cards SION Notified

Subject: Amendment in SION A-1578.

28-PN(RE) In exercise of the powers conferred under Paragraph 2.4 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-14 and Paragraph 1.1 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. 1), the 26.10.2012 Directorate General of Foreign Trade hereby amends SION A-1578, as under:-

SION No.	Export Item	Quantity	Import items	Quantity
A 1578	(1) Printed Cards	1 Kg.	1. Art & Chrome Paper/Board/Art Board Coated/Uncoated white Card Board Coated/Uncoated	1.02 Kg.
			2. Coloured Hot Foil Stamping Foil Standard grade (Allowed only if it is used in the export item)	0.104 Kg.
			3. Offset Printing Ink	1% of FOB value of export of Printed Cards
	(2) Ruled Cards	1 Kg.	1. Art & Chrome Paper/Board/Art Board Coated/Uncoated white Card Board Coated/Uncoated	1.02 Kg.
			2. Coloured Hot Foil Stamping Foil Standard grade (Allowed only if it is used in the export item)	0.104 Kg
			3. Offset Printing Ink	0.5% of FOB value of export of Ruled Cards
	(3) Plain Cards	1 Kg.	1. Art & Chrome Paper/Board/Art Board Coated/Uncoated white Card Board Coated/Uncoated	1.02 Kg.
			2. Coloured Hot Foil Stamping Foil Standard grade (Allowed only if it is used in the export item)	0.104 Kg
			3. Offset Printing Ink	Not to be allowed

2. Effect of Public Notice

With the present SION A-1578, norms for two more export products, namely, Ruled Cards and Plain Cards have been given.

Corrigendum dated 17 October 2012 to 34-CE/10.09.2012 – Torrent Power substitutes Jindal Power for Project Import Duty

[Ref: Corrigendum dated 17 October 2012]

In the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 34/2012-Central Excise, dated the 10th September, 2012, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 674(E), dated the 10th September, 2012, in sub-para (iii) of para (B), in List 11,

for "63 Akhakhol GBPP, Gujarat- 3x382.5= 1147.5 MW (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.)", read "63 Akhakhol GBPP, Gujarat- 3x382.5= 1147.5 MW (M/s. Torrent Power Ltd.)".

[354/78/2010-TRU(Pt-1)]

Final Extension of Transition Period for Export Subsidy Programme of 19 Developing Countries Extended Till 2013 End

The beneficiaries of the transition period are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Jordan, Mauritius, Panama, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Uruguay.

In 2007, the General Council adopted a decision on procedures for the extension of the transition period for the elimination of export subsidy programmes of these developing countries. The decision enables the Subsidies Committee to continue to grant extensions of the transition period until the end of 2013, with a final phase out period of two years, which shall end no later than 31 December 2015.

At the meeting, Colombia urged beneficiary countries to start enacting legislation that would phase out the subsidy programmes.

Notifications

The chair, Mr Sam C.S. Hui (Hong Kong, China), expressed concern that 73 members have not yet submitted their 2011 subsidy notifications. He underlined the importance of notifications in the work of the Committee.

New Zealand, supported by Argentina, Norway, the United States and Chile, urged members to notify fisheries subsidy programmes as called for by the Rio+20 Conference.

The United States reiterated its concerns about incomplete subsidy notifications from China and India respectively. The European Union, Canada, Japan and Turkey shared the US concerns. China said it is in contact with the United States on this matter bilaterally and would keep the Committee informed of progress. India said it had recently notified its fisheries subsidy programmes, and that it remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement.

Textiles

The United States and Turkey again urged India to start phasing out its export subsidies to its textile and clothing industry, which the WTO Secretariat had found to be export competitive as from 2007.

India reiterated that it wants clarity and common understanding first on certain issues about its obligations to phase out subsidies, and that it is open to bilateral discussions.

Other business

India expressed concern about certain changes made in a WTO Secretariat background note on notifications despite reservations voiced against them in a Committee meeting. China, South Africa and Brazil shared India's concern. The United States said the background note was produced by the Secretariat on its own responsibility. The Chair said he would discuss the matter with interested delegations.

The United States called on Canada to provide more information about its government assistance to the reopening of the Port Hawkesbury paper mill in Nova Scotia, and

Tariff Value of RBD Palmolein, Brass Scrap, Gold and Silver down Slightly

96-Cus(NT) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Excise & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient so to do, hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S. O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, namely:-
In the said notification, for Table-1 and Table-2, the following Tables shall be substituted namely:-

"Table-1

S.No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/ tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff Value US \$ (Per Metric Tonne)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	1511 10 00	Crude Palm Oil	447 (i.e. no change)
2	1511 90 10	RBD Palm Oil	476 (i.e. no change)
3	1511 90 90	Others – Palm Oil	462 (i.e. no change)
4	1511 10 00	Crude Palmolein	481 (i.e. no change)
5	1511 90 20	RBD Palmolein	889
6	1511 90 90	Others – Palmolein	483 (i.e. no change)
7	1507 10 00	Crude Soyabean Oil	580 (i.e. no change)
8	7404 00 22	Brass Scrap (all grades)	4096
9	1207 91 00	Poppy seeds	5346

Table-2

S.No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/ tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US\$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	71 or 98	Gold, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 321 and 323 of the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17.03.2012 is availed	556 per 10 grams
2	71 or 98	Silver, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 322 and 324 of the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17.03.2012 is availed	1039 per kilogram

[F. No. 467/01/2012-Cus.V Pt. I]

expressed the hope that the subsidies be expeditiously withdrawn. The European Union shared the US concern. Canada said that the support in question is under the purview of a provincial entity, and that it is working with Nova Scotia on answers to US questions sent on 11 October 2012. It said it already has started a dialogue with the United States on this matter, and invited the European Union to a similar discussion.

G-20 Tells U.S. to Avoid Fiscal Cliff as Focus Widens

Global finance chiefs pressed the U.S. to avoid harming the fragile world economy with excessive austerity, widening their focus on fiscal challenges beyond concerns over Europe's debt woes.

On the eve of the U.S. presidential election, Group of 20 finance ministers and central bankers meeting in Mexico City pushed for swift action to prevent the \$607 billion in tax increases and spending cuts that will hit in January unless lawmakers act.

As President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney tussle for the White House, the fear of foreign officials is that failure to limit the damage of the so-called fiscal cliff would tip the world's largest economy into

Exchange Rates for Customs Valuation

Rupee Falls to Rs. 54.55 for Customs Valuation on Imports w.e.f. 2 November 2012

97-Cus(NT) In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 95/2012-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated the 18th October, 2012 vide number S.O. 2518(E), dated the 18th October, 2012, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such super session, the Central Board of Excise and Customs hereby determines that the rate of exchange of conversion of each of the foreign currency specified in column (2) of each of Schedule I and Schedule II annexed hereto into Indian currency or vice versa shall, **with effect from 2nd November, 2012** be the rate mentioned against it in the corresponding entry in column (3) thereof, for the purpose of the said section, relating to imported and export goods.

SNo.	Currency	Imported Goods		Exported Goods	
		Current	Previous	Current	Previous
Schedule I – Rate of exchange of one unit of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees					
1.	Australian Dollar	56.85	55.10	55.30	53.70
2.	Bahrain Dinar	147.50	144.05	139.15	135.85
3.	Canadian Dollar	54.80	54.15	53.45	52.80
4.	Danish Kroner	9.55	9.40	9.25	9.10
5.	EURO	70.90	69.85	69.10	68.20
6.	Hong Kong Dollar	7.05	6.85	6.90	6.75
7.	Kenya Shilling	65.35	63.90	61.55	60.00
8.	Kuwait Dinar	198.05	193.80	186.45	182.15
9.	Newzeland Dollar	45.00	43.75	43.80	42.45
10.	Norwegian Kroner	9.60	9.50	9.30	9.15
11.	Pound Sterling	87.95	86.10	85.85	84.00
12.	Singapore Dollar	44.80	43.80	43.75	42.75
13.	South African Rand	6.45	6.25	6.05	5.90
14.	Saudi Arabian Riyal	14.85	14.50	14.00	13.65
15.	Swedish Kroner	8.25	8.10	8.00	7.85
16.	Swiss Franc	58.80	57.85	57.30	56.35
17.	UAE Dirham	15.15	14.80	14.30	13.95
18.	US Dollar	54.55	53.20	53.55	52.25

Schedule II – Rate of exchange of 100 units of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees

1.	Japanese Yen	68.90	67.95	66.95	66.05
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[F.No.468/17/2012-Cus.V]

recession and drag their countries down with it. Europe, the subject of the G-20's ire for the past three years, remained under pressure amid calls to take promised crisis-fighting steps.

A draft of the statement to be issued by the G-20 identifies the potential for sharp fiscal pullback in the U.S. and Japan as a danger to an already modest expansion, said an official from one of the countries who declined to be identified because the text hasn't been finalized.

Gold Gains for 2nd Day as Dollar Weakens Before U.S. Vote

Gold rose for a second day in London as the dollar weakened before the U.S. presidential election that may determine the direction of monetary and fiscal policy in the largest economy.

U.S. voters decide between giving President Barack Obama another four years in office or changing course with Republican challenger Mitt Romney. The Fed said Oct. 24 it will maintain \$40 billion in monthly purchases of mortgage debt and probably hold interest rates near zero

until mid-2015. The U.S. dollar weakened against a six-currency basket.

Gold for immediate delivery advanced 0.3 percent to \$1,690.78 an ounce in London. Gold for December delivery rose 0.5 percent to \$1,691 an ounce on the Comex in New York.

Gold futures may initially rally to \$1,725 an ounce before further gains if Obama wins, according to UBS. They jumped 4.2 percent on Nov. 4, 2008, the day Obama was elected, and more than doubled during the four years of his presidency.

Election Aftermath

Bullion's rally may be at risk if Romney wins as

he may replace Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke at the end of his term and easing may end earlier than expected, Francisco Blanch, commodities research head at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said yesterday. UBS's Tully said Romney's election may lead to a united government and stronger dollar, hurting gold.

Bullion rallied 8.1 percent this year as central banks including the Federal Reserve took steps to shield their economies hurt by Europe's crisis.

Silver for immediate delivery rose 0.6 percent to \$31.3675 an ounce. Spot platinum advanced 0.4 percent to \$1,548.74 an ounce. Palladium added 0.3 percent to \$614 an ounce.

Dollar Rises to Eight-Week High Versus Euro before U.S. Election

The dollar rose to an eight-week high versus the euro before U.S. voters head to the polls on 6 November to decide whether President Barack Obama or challenger Mitt Romney will guide the world's biggest economy for the next four years.

The U.S. currency held a three-day gain versus the 17-nation currency on speculation whoever wins the election will press ahead with resolving the so-called fiscal cliff of federal spending cuts and tax increases. Australia's dollar appreciated against all its major peers after the central bank unexpectedly refrained

from cutting interest rates today.

The dollar was little changed at \$1.2794 after advancing to \$1.2764, the strongest since Sept. 11. The U.S. currency fell 0.1 percent to 80.24 yen. The yen was little changed at 102.70 per euro.

The Dollar Index (DXY), which Intercontinental Exchange Inc. uses to track the U.S. currency against those of six major trading partners, declined 0.1 percent to 80.688.

Australia's dollar advanced 0.7 percent to \$1.0439 after rising to \$1.0442, the strongest since Sept. 28.

ITA II Covering Consumer Goods on the Boil, Korea Claims 17 in First List

According to WTO, at the meeting of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Committee on 1 November 2012, Korea reported some progress on technical discussions it hosted early in the week on expanding the current product coverage of the ITA. It said that the 17 participating members are moving towards more substantial discussions, and that a revised consolidated list of products proposed for inclusion in ITA expansion would be circulated in mid-December.

The United States urged for next version in January 2013. Japan noted that the number of participants has risen from six to the current 17 (counting the EU as one), and urged other members to participate. Costa Rica expressed its full support for these discussions.

India not Comfortable

India placed on record its serious reservations on the initiative to expand the ITA product coverage. It said that in recent consultations, its stakeholders have pointed to problems regarding relevance of the proposed products, their multiple uses, and possible difficulties in processing at customs. India recalled that at the ITA Symposium earlier this year, it noted that its manufacturing activity dipped because of the ITA.

Non Tariff Measures Take Back Seat

Norway reported on discussions by a group of 15 members on how to reduce non-tariff measures (NTMs) on IT products. It said that substantial work remains before they could produce a text. The EU said that with tariffs at zero, only NTMs remain as obstacles to IT trade. It stressed that its focus is not on creating obligations but rather on achieving self-commitments in this area based on past work of the Committee. Switzerland, the United States and Japan expressed support for this initiative.

Hurdles in Russia, Tajikistan

The United States said that many members regarded Russia's commitment to join the ITA as an important part of the country's accession package. It had made comments on Russia's schedule regarding the need to make technical changes that would ensure full coverage of ITA products. The European Union and Japan echoed the US view.

On Tajikistan, the Chair recalled that its ITA schedule was circulated last September and that one delegation had made a technical comment. He said that once this is resolved, Tajikistan would become an ITA participant when it accedes to the WTO.

Uniform Classification

On another issue, the Chair, Mr Aaron Fowler (Canada), asked the Committee to make a final attempt at the next meeting to adopt a draft decision resolving a number of divergences in classifying IT products, as proposed by a group of customs classification experts and delegates in 2000.

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