



Commodity House

TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO: 34 of AUGUST 30 & 31, 2022

LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

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COMMENTS

This week's tea auction (Sale # 34) was conducted on August 30 & 31, 2022 (Tue/Wed), with a weight of 4.4m kgs, a drop of 338,415 kgs over the previous sale. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy & Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 2m kg, while the Main Sale High & Medium segment had 0.48m kg. The Ex Estate category had 0.52m kg.

There was good general demand for Ex Estate teas. Best Western BOP's were firm and Rs. 50/- dearer on selected teas while cleaner below-best teas gained Rs. 50/- to 100/- per kg, and, plainer sorts appreciated Rs 50/-. Best Western BOPF's with maintained quality held firm whilst others were irregular following quality. Below-best BOPF's with cleaner leaf gained Rs. 50/- and more while plainer descriptions were mostly firm. Nuwara Eliya BOP's and BOPF's were barely steady, while Uda Pussellawa's were irregular following quality. Uva BOP's were firm and up to Rs. 50/- dearer while their corresponding BOPF's were firm. CTC Teas – High Grown PF1's declined Rs. 50/- to 100/-, while the better made, high priced Mediums were mostly firm although poorer teas eased Rs. 50/- to 100/-. Low Grown PF1's declined up to Rs. 300/- . High and Medium Grown BP1's grade was conspicuous by its absence while Low Grown BP1's were irregular and easier. There was selective interest from Japan, Germany and other European markets for the availability of better liquoring teas. Buyers for China, Taiwan and Hong Kong were fairly active. Russian interest was maintained at lower levels.

Good demand continued to prevail for Low Grown teas. Select best OP1's were barely steady while improved below-best teas were firm to selectively dearer. Well-made OP's/OPA's were fully firm to dearer, while, poorer sorts held firm. Select best BOP1's were barely steady, while, poorer teas held firm. Well made Pek/Pek1's together with below-best varieties were fully firm to dearer, while poorer sorts were maintained. Stylish FBOP's / FBOPF1's were firm, while bottom level teas were firm to dearer. There was good demand from buyers for the Middle East and the CIS. Demand from Russia was sustained. Turkey and Syria were active for Pekoe grades. Libya continued to actively bid for secondary leafy grades, whilst Iraq concentrated on bottom level teas.

This week's auction comprised of 9,039 lots with a total quantity of 4,441,953 kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty.(Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	1,741	668,436
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,123	456,045
Low Grown Tippy	1,787	850,733
High & Medium	1,102	480,318
Off Grade/BOP1A	1,972	1,058,050
Dust	358	326,986
Premium Flowery	477	73,037
Ex-Estate	<u>479</u>	<u>528,348</u>
Total	<u>9,039</u>	<u>4,441,953</u>

In Lighter Vein

A Cadillac with Everything

A few decades ago, a man and his wife were driving through the country on his way from New York to California. Looking at his fuel gauge, he decided to stop at the next gasoline station and fill it up. About 15 minutes later, he spots a Mobil station and pulls over to the high octane pump. "What can I do for y'all?" asks the attendant. "Fill 'er up with high test," replies the driver. While the attendant is filling up the tank, he's looking the car up and down. "What kinda car is this?" he asks. "I never seen one like it before." "Well," responds the driver, his chest swelling up with pride, "This, my boy is a 1999 Cadillac DeVill." "What features does it have?" asks the attendant. "Well," says the driver, "It has everything. It's loaded with power steering, power seats, power sun roof, power mirrors, AM/FM radio with a 10 deck CD player in the trunk with 100 watts per channel, 8 speaker stereo, rack and pinion steering, disk brakes all around, leather interior, digital instrument package, and best of all, an 8.8 liter V12 engine." "Wow," says the attendant, "That's really something!" "How much do I owe you for the gasoline?" asks the driver. "That'll be \$30.17," says the attendant. The driver pulls out his money clip and peels off a \$20 and a \$10. He goes into his other pocket and pulls out a handful of change. Mixed up with the change are a few golf tees. "What are those little wooden things?" asks the attendant. "That's what I put my balls on when I drive," says the driver. "Wow," says the attendant, "Those Cadillac people think of everything!"

LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

- BOP1** : Best on offer declined by Rs.40-60/-; others were irregular and mostly lower.
- OP1** : Well made wiry OP1's maintained last levels; others declined Rs.50-70/-.
- OP** : Select best types lost Rs.40-50/-; others declined by Rs.30-50/-.
- OPA** : Stylish OPA's maintained last levels; others were Rs.40-60/- lower.
- PEK/PEK1** : Select best types maintained last levels; others were irregular and mostly lower.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
BOP1	2750-3100	2800-3850	1600-2750	1600-2800	1400-1600	1500-1600
OP1	2500-3500	2400-3550	1600-2500	1600-2400	800-1600	800-1600
OP	1500-2350	1600-2550	1000-1500	1100-1600	600 - 1000	600 - 1100
OPA	1700-2400	1600-2550	1100-1700	1000-1600	600-1100	550-1000
PEK/PEK1	1800-2500	1700-2600	1500-1800	1300-1700	900 - 1500	900 - 1300

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

- BOP/BOPSP** : Select best and best BOP's were firm whilst below best and cleaner teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance sold around last levels.
- BOPF/BOPFS** : Select best and best BOPF were firm. Balance were irregular following quality.
- FBOP/FBOP1** : Well-made FBOP's were lower whilst cleaner below best and cleaner teas at the lower end appreciated. Balance sold on last levels. FBOP1's in general were firm.
- FBOPF/FBOPF1** : Tippy teas together with best appreciated. However cleaner below best were firm on last. Well-made FF1's were appreciated whilst cleaner below best and cleaner teas at the bottom met with good demand.
- FBOPFSP/EXSP** : Select best invoices appreciated whilst best and the below best sold on last levels.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
BOP/BOPSP	2500-3250	2400-2800	2000-2500	2000-2400	1000-2200	950-2000
BOPF /BOPFSP	2400-3250	2000-2850	1800-2400	1700-2000	1000-1800	900-1700
FBOP/FBOP1	2800-3650	2800-3550	2200-2800	2200-2800	1800-2200	1800-2200
FBOPF/FBOPF1	2800-3550	2600-3400	2200-2800	2000-2600	1700-2200	1600-2000
FBOPFSP/EXSP	8000-10400	6000-10100	3000 -8000	3000-6000	2000-3000	2000-3000

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

- FBOP** : Well-made FBOP's on offer were firm on last levels. Teas in the below best and poorer sorts met with fair general demand.
- FBOPF/FBOPF1** : Well made teas on offer were firm to dearer and the below best types too gained Rs.50/- and more.
- PEK/PEK1** : Neat well made shotty invoices on offer appreciated in value, below best types held firm; poorer sorts too gained Rs.20-40/-.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
FBOP	2000-3450	1800-3000	1500-2000	1450-1800	1300-1500	1250-1450
FBOPF/FBOPF1	1900-2700	1850-2650	1350-1900	1300-1850	1100-1350	1000-1300
PEK/PEK1	1600-2250	1500-2200	1300-1600	1200-1500	1100-1300	1000-1200

HIGH GROWNS TEAS

BOP: Best Western's were firm and Rs.50/- per kg dearer on select invoices following special inquiry. In the Below Best category clean leaf coloury sorts gained Rs.50-100/- per kg whilst the Plainer sorts were Rs.50/- per kg dearer. Nuwara Eliya/Uda Pussellawa's were irregular following quality, Uva's were firm and up to Rs. 50 per kg dearer selectively following special inquiry.

BOPF : Best Western's - Best Western's, where quality was maintained, were mostly firm, whilst the others were irregular following quality. In the Below Best category select clean leaf coloury sorts appreciated Rs.50/-per kg and more following special inquiry whilst the others together with teas at the lower end of the market sold around last week s levels. Nuwara Eliya's were barely steady. Uda Pussellawa's were irregular following quality. Uva's were mostly firm.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	1650-1850	1600-2600	1700-1850	1700-1850
Below Best Westerns	1450-1600	1400-1550	1550-1650	1450-1600
Plainer Westerns	1320-1420	1280-1380	1320-1500	1340-1440
Nuwara Eliyas	1600	1500-1900	1420	1400-1480
Brighter UdaPussellawas	1500-1600	1360-1440	1550	1500-1550
Other Uda Pussellawas	N/A	1280-1320	1350-1460	1420-1480
Best Uva's	1550-2000	1500-2400	1500-1900	1500-2700
Other Uva's	1240-1460	1380-1440	1480	1300-1480

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Continued to sell around last.

BOPF : Mostly sold around last week's levels.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Best Westerns	1200- 2550	N/A - 2550	860 – 1420	920 – N/A

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN

BP1 : Hardly any offerings.

PF1 : Select well-made sorts were firm and up to Rs.50/- per kg easier; whilst the others declined Rs.100/- per kg and more.

MEDIUM GROWN

BP1 : Irregular and hardly any offerings.

PF1 : Select Best were mostly firm, whilst the others were irregular following quality.

LOW GROWN

BP1 : Irregular and easier.

PF1 : Declined up to Rs.300/- per kg,

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BP1		PF1	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
High	N/Q	970 - 1020	1280 - 1800	1300 - 1850
Medium	650 – 1120	750 – 1180	710 – 1750	740 – 1750
Low	880 - 1000	800 - 1440	830 - 2300	810 - 2700

OFF GRADES

FGS/FGS1 :

Select best Liquoring FNGS/FNGS1s' maintained last week levels whilst others firm on last. Clean Low Grown well-made FNGS1's lost Rs.20-40/- per kg and others were a little irregular.

BM :

Well-made BM's appreciated Rs.50-100/- per kg. Best types were a little irregular. Lower end teas were dearer Rs.20-30/- per kg and at times more.

BOP1A :

Select best BOP1A's advanced Rs.50-80/- per kg. Below best teas dearer by Rs.75-100/- per kg. Poor types gained by Rs.50/- per kg.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Fannings (Orthodox)	800 - 1450	800 - 1450	630 - 770	630 - 770	650 - 1000	650 - 1150
Good Fannings (CTC)	580 - 750	580 - 750	580 - 710	580 - 720	580-760	580 - 790
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	550 - 720	550 - 720	550 - 710	550 - 730	550 - 720	550 - 780
Other Fannings (CTC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Good BM's	680-770	680-770	680-800	680-790	680-880	650 - 850
Other BM's	590-680	570-680	590-680	580-690	590-670	530 640
Best BOP1As	750 - 850	690 - 720	850-950	750-850	1300 - 1850	1200 - 1800
Other BOP1As	650-750	620-710	650-750	600-710	650-750	550 640

DUST

DUST/DUST1 : Liquoring High Grown D/D1's were firm to dearer by Rs.30-50/- per kg and at times more; others were firm on last levels. Low Grown Clean Dust/Dust1's were substantially dearer by Rs.200-500/- per kg whilst Below Best teas were firm on last levels.

PD : PD's from High & Medium elevations appreciated by Rs.30-50/- per kg whilst Low Grown PD's held at last levels.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
Good Primary Dust1 (Orthodox)	1350-1850	1300-1800	1050-1400	1000-1360	1000 - 1910	800 - 1340
Good Primary PD (CTC)	900-1380	950-1400	1070-1380	1000-1360	1100 - 1850	1100 - 1850
Secondary Dust	640-750	640-750	690 - 750	640 - 750	650 - 720	630 - 720

WESTERN MEDIUM

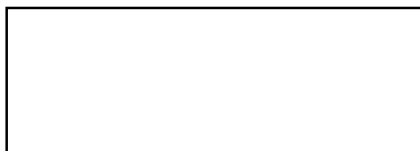
Craighead	BOP	2550/-
Dartry Valley	BOP	2550/-
Harangalla	BOP	2550/-

UVA MEDIUM

Dickwella	BOP	2500/-
Demodera 'S'	BOPSP	2500/-
ST. James	BOPE/BOPESP	1900/-

LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES

Liverpool Super	BOP1	3100/-
Dampahala	BOP1	3100/-
Rotumba	BOP1	2950/-



* Sold by Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd / +++All Time Record Price / ++ Equal All Time Record Price

COLOMBO AUCTION – WEEKLY GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO.33 OF 24TH AUGUST 2022

	2022			2021	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	1,344.38	1,329.46	1,003.40	527.80	552.63
Western High Grown	1,493.52	1,517.31	990.70	573.65	599.97
High Grown	1,436.31	1,440.00	994.93	556.22	585.74
Uva Medium	1,335.50	1,363.23	1,066.77	580.48	571.55
Western Medium	1,195.23	1,194.24	895.71	492.68	544.30
Medium Grown	1,239.52	1,246.25	948.62	519.36	552.50
Low Grown (Orthodox)	1,670.28	1,617.68	1,274.75	635.98	658.17
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	1,654.03	1,608.88	1,248.78	628.85	649.67
Total	1,546.72	1,516.37	1,143.59	595.39	619.32

Private Sale Figures (22.08.2022 - 27.08.2022) - 65,158.75Kgs

Cumulative - 2,810,588.33Kgs

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

	<u>Sale of 06th /07th Sep.'22</u>		<u>Sale of 13th /14th Sep.'22</u>	
	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>Qty. (Kgs)</u>
Low Grown Leafy	1,643	614,500	1,615	621,048
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,008	401,168	1,035	425,080
Low Grown Tippy	1,576	757,094	1,690	819,100
High & Medium	1,043	481,323	1,034	460,430
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,076	1,067,921	1,881	978,325
Dust	383	330,972	348	303,998
Premium Flowery	367	56,689	376	59,629
Ex-Estate	<u>456</u>	<u>510,023</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>566,130</u>
Total	<u>8,552</u>	<u>4,219,690</u>	<u>8,489</u>	<u>4,253,740</u>

FUTURE CATALOGUES CLOSURE

Sale No. 37 of 20th /21st September, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on 01st September, 2022 at 04.30 p.m.

Sale No.38 of 27th /28th September, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on 08th September, 2022 at 04.30 p.m.

Sale No.39 of 04th /05th October, 2022

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on 15th September, 2022 at 04.30 p.m.

BROKER'S SELLING ORDER

SALE NO.35

Auction of 06th & 07th September, 2022

Leafy/Tippy/BOP1A/Premium Flowery

1. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
2. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
3. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
4. Eastern Brokers PLC
5. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
6. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**
7. John Keells PLC
8. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

1. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
2. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
3. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
4. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
5. John Keells PLC
6. Eastern Brokers PLC
7. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
8. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**

Ex-Estate

1. Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
2. Eastern Brokers PLC
3. Bartleet Produce Marketing (Pvt) Ltd
4. Mercantile Produce Brokers (Pvt) Ltd
5. Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC
6. **Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd**
7. Ceylon Tea Brokers PLC
8. John Keells PLC

CROP & WEATHER

For the period of 22nd to 28th August, 2022

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions

Gloomy weather with showers were reported in the Western Region, whilst the Nuwara Eliya Region reported mixed weather conditions during the morning hours and sporadic evening showers throughout the week.

Uva/Udapussellawa Region

The Uva Region reported bright weather throughout the week, whilst the Udapussellawa Region reported clear mornings and overcast evenings with showers.

Low Grown

The Low Grown Region reported sunny mornings and occasional evening showers throughout the week.

Crop Intake

The Western, Nuwara Eliya, Uva and Udapussellawa regions maintained the crop intake, whilst the Low Grown Region reported a slight increase.

For obtaining
***ISO 22000:2018**
OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS
TO
GANGANEE TEA FACTORY

WORLD CROP STATISTICS (MKGS)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>Difference +/-</i>	<i>To-date 2021</i>	<i>To-date 2022</i>	<i>Difference +/-</i>
SRI LANKA	July	26.38	19.86	-6.52	188.09	153.03	-35.06
BANGLADESH	<i>June</i>	13.35	12.59	-0.76	25.43	27.06	1.63
KENYA	<i>April</i>	44.30	41.20	-3.10	185.30	177.00	-8.3
NORTH INDIA	<i>June</i>	145.70	117.0	-28.70	325.30	342.40	17.10
SOUTH INDIA	<i>June</i>	24.30	25.30	1.00	122.80	119.00	-3.80
MALAWI	<i>April</i>	6.40	7.10	0.70	28.60	26.00	-2.6
TANZANIA	<i>Mar.</i>	3.33	7.89	4.56	9.41	13.04	3.6
UGANDA	<i>Mar.</i>	5.56	4.35	-1.2	18.49	15.91	-2.58

“Africa Tea Brokers Bulletin of Statistics”

OTHER MARKETS

MALAWI TEA MARKET REPORT - SALE 35 of 31/08/2022

There was very little interest for the small quantity on offer where only F2 sold at last week's levels

WEATHER/CROP FOR THE WEEK ENDING 28TH AUGUST, 2022

Partly cloudy, getting warmer by the day and windy in the morning.

Crop intakes slightly improving.

Courtesy : **TEA BROKERS CENTRAL AFRICA LIMITED**

SOUTH INDIAN ROUNDUP FOR THE WEEKENDING

27TH AUGUST, 2022

KOCHI

CTC LEAF

Demand : Fair demand. All grades sold irregularly around last levels with some withdrawals.

ORTHODOX LEAF

Demand : Good demand

Market : Well made whole leaf appreciated in value whilst others were irregular and tended lower. Limited quantities of fannings sold in last levels.

Buying Pattern : Middle East and CIS buyers operated.

DUST

Demand : Good demand.

Market : Prices for good liquoring popular varieties & better mediums sold fully firm levels. Whilst the plainer sorts witnessed better enquiry and tended to appreciate in value by Re.1/- to Rs.2/-..

Buying Pattern : Major Blenders were active & internal buyers operated.

COONOR**CTC LEAF**

Demand : Good.

Market : Market had opened with steady to firm and mostly dearer levels, as the sale progressed it had gained momentum and went on to be sold at fully firm to dearer by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- and upto Rs.10/- across all types and categories. The fairly cleaner and blacker types appreciated in prices even further

The overall sale percentage is 86% at an average of Rs. 91.04.

Buying Pattern : Strong participation of Major Blenders was forthcoming with equally good support from the other Packeteers and Internal buyers. Export was also seen lending fairly good support in which Girnar Food and Beverages was active.

ORTH LEAF

Demand : Fairly strong

Market : Market was steady to firm on the Whole leaf grades and the Primary Broken. However the Primary and Secondary Fannings were rather trading at irregularly easier levels by Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- and more following quality.

The overall sale percentage is 85% at an average of Rs. 117.61.

Buying Pattern : Fairly good Export enquiry was forthcoming in which Consolidated Tea was seen active. Internal was lending fair support along with the Major Blenders.

CTC DUST

Demand : Strong.

Market : Market witnessed yet another week of strong and buoyant trend with the Brighter teas trading at fully firm to dearer levels and the finer grades had appreciated in prices even further. The Medium Bolder dusts had attracted better demand and appreciated considerably in prices as well.

The overall sale percentage is 93% at an average of Rs. 107.06.

Buying Pattern : Strong Internal operation was forthcoming with the Major Blenders supporting well. Export has been lending equally good support with Girnar Food and Beverages being active

ORTH DUST

Demand : Strong.

Market : Though the market was stronger, that was not reflected in the price realized, as the Primary dust grades were trading at irregularly lower levels. The Tertiaries however had better enquiry and sold at fully firm to dearer levels.

The overall sale percentage is 91% at an average of Rs. 89.92.

Buying Pattern : Fairly good Export buying was forthcoming with fair Internal support.

COIMBATORE

CTC LEAF

Demand : Good general demand.

Market : Better medium and popular sorts were barely steady with some withdrawals. Medium teas were firm to dearer by Rs.2/- to Rs.4/- sometimes more on blacker grainy smaller broken and BOPF's. Plainer teas were irregular and lower with heavy withdrawals.

Buying Pattern : Blenders, packeteers and exporters were active. Others selective.

ORTH LEAF

Demand : Fair demand.

Market : Whole leaf were barely steady. Secondary broken / BOPF's were irregular with some withdrawals.

Buying Pattern : Exporters were internal were selective.

CTC DUST

Demand : Good general demand.

Market : Better medium / popular teas sorts were firm to occasionally dearer with few withdrawals. Medium teas were steady to firm, sometimes occasionally dearer on blacker and grainy teas. Plainer teas were dearer by Re.1/- to Rs.2/-.

Buying Pattern : Blenders, packeteers and exporters were selective. Internal buyers were active.

ORTH DUST

Demand : Fair demand

Market : Around lower by Rs.2/-.

Buying Pattern : Exporters were active.

Source: Paramount Tea Marketing (SI) Private Limited

BANGLADESH AUCTION

SALE NO.17 OF MONDAY 29th August, 2022

CTC LEAF : 37,044 packages of Current Season teas on offer met with a strong demand.

BROKENS : All good liquoring Brokens met with more competition and advanced by Tk5/- to Tk10/- over last. Medium and Plain types also saw better demand generally at higher rates particularly the former. Likewise, BLF teas sold well in line with quality but few were withdrawn without bids. There were some withdrawals.

FANNINGS : Best Fannings were strong feature of the sale and these advanced by Tk10/- and more following competition. Good Medium types also met with stronger demand and were mostly dearer by Tk.5/- and more. Plain types were well absorbed generally at firm to slightly dearer rates. BLF teas sold well in line with quality but few were withdrawn without bids. There were some withdrawals.

CTC DUST : 3,301 packages of Current Season teas on offer met with strong demand. Well made good liquoring Dusts sold well at dearer rates following competition compared to last sale. Their Mediums also saw better demand and were dearer by Tk.8/- to Tk.10/- closely following quality. Plain and BLF Dusts sold at Brokers' valuation with a few withdrawals.. Blenders lent strong support with quite fair interest from the Loose tea buyers..

COMMENTS : A lesser weight of tea was on offer which attracted strong competition from all sections of the market. Blenders were very active as well as the Loose tea buyers particularly on the brightest teas on offer. As a result of much increased activity, the prices moved upwards.
Dusts sold at higher price than last.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This Week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Large	212-217N	207-212N	Best	225 - 240	220 - 230	PD	200 - 231	185 - 266
Medium	210 - 222	200 - 215	Good	215 - 222	208 - 215	RD	148 - 354	140 - 385
Small	215 - 225	203 - 215	Medium	207 - 212	195 - 203	D	187 - 399	158 - 375
Plain	190 - 200	180 - 190	Plain	190 - 205	185 - 190	CD	183 - 450	180 - 430
BLF	135 - 170	130 - 145	BLF	135 - 170	130 - 145	BLF	148 - 205	140 - 196

COURTESY: NATIONAL BROKERS LTD

31st August, 2022.

-/ra

INTERNATIONAL TEA NEWS

Their cup runeth over

The increasing plight of our tea workers has been invisible up until now



Maisha Tabassum Anima

August 25, 2022 1:00 AM

No matter how long and difficult the struggle or protest or how lonely a night spent studying for a big exam can be, there is always time for a refreshing cup of tea.

Tea has been the catalyst for everything Bangladeshis do, including our love life, the conversations we engage in, the stories we tell, the songs we sing, the revolutions we ignite, and the rebellions we wage. This is exactly why we idealize the image of the lone tea worker harvesting tea leaves in our commercials, for instance.

However, the image completely avoids depicting the grim reality of the labourers' lives on a Tk120 daily salary. Since they are spending their days in relative obscurity, eating smashed tea leaves with rice, little was known about them before they began their recent movement.

Workers in the state of Assam, which produces the most tea in India, now receive 217 rupees (\$3) per day as their wage. The government of Sri Lanka has come to an agreement to raise the minimum daily salary for tea workers from 500 rupees to 700 rupees (\$3.55).

For the workers in the Bangladesh tea industry, the situation seems to be static.

According to the International Tea Committee in London, Bangladesh is the ninth largest tea producer in the world. Recent years have seen a surge in production for our country, which resulted in 2019's record-breaking production of 90.6 million kilograms of tea. New investments, expanded plantations, and upgraded machinery were cited as the reasons for the upturn by respective companies.

It doesn't seem to matter how much more output there has been, however, as the workers' living conditions and socioeconomic statuses remain unchanged. Workers in the tea industry are the epitome of modern-day slavery since they are denied basic human rights like a decent wage, access to education and healthcare, and much more.

Davidson (2015) contends that the current legal framework for modern slavery -- which includes inhumane working conditions, poor pay, and the widespread use of penalties to limit workers' agency and turn them into "willing slaves" -- makes such practices "morally acceptable.

The British were instrumental in establishing Bangladesh's tea industry. In 1854, a commercial tea garden was established in Sylhet -- in order to staff the tea plantations, people from all over the South Asian sub-continent were brought in, mostly from the states of Bihar and Orissa, but also from the states of Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. The majority of those who were targeted were weak, destitute, and often came from groups within low castes. Brokers lied to them about the employment market and the quality of life, luring them with the promise of a better life which ultimately did not materialize.

Not much has changed in the past 150 years, despite the passage of four or five generations since then. The majority of today's tea garden workers in Bangladesh are descended from those first settlers.

Tea workers from 158 gardens in the Sylhet and Chittagong divisions went on a two-hour strike from August 9-12, causing disruptions during the peak of the leaf-plucking season. Their full-day strike began on August 13. Since the current pay is not keeping up with rising prices and a weakening currency, unions are pushing for a raise of Tk300 per day. The DG warned employees in a letter dated August 12 that "such strikes contravene the labour law."

Despite the state-wide lockdown that was imposed due to the Covid-19 outbreak, tea estates continued to operate normally. Some tea plantation workers tried to organize a strike, but they were unsuccessful when asking for their rights.

The significant marginalization of tea garden workers in Bangladesh is the primary driver of modern-day slavery within this country's tea sector. Workers in Bangladesh's tea gardens face social and economic exclusion, leaving them with few employment options. Many employees labour extra hours or enlist the help of family members (such as children) to make sure they achieve daily targets (usually 23kg) or risk having their pay reduced.

When it comes to the tea industry, the payment system, especially for leaf pickers, encourages modern slavery.

Workers in Bangladesh's tea gardens are Bangladeshi citizens, and as such they are protected by the country's labour laws. The Tea Plantations Labour Ordinance of 1962 and the Tea Plantations Labour Rules of 1977 were the applicable pieces of legislation for a significant portion of time. The Bangladesh Labour Act of 2006, however, repealed these and 25 other laws pertaining to workers. Workers are guaranteed certain benefits under the 2006 act, such as a monthly minimum income of Tk1,500, a Sunday leave (or double pay for working), paid leave during pregnancy, convenient nearby facilities, and so on.

However, discrimination still exists in labour laws that affect those who work in the tea industry specifically. In particular, workers in other industries receive 10 days of unpaid leave while tea workers receive none, and workers in other industries receive one day of earned leave for every 18 days worked, whereas tea workers must work 22 days to earn one day of leave.

The situation of tea garden workers and their families, especially women and children, has remained dismal despite Bangladesh's tremendous gains in human development indicators in recent years. The most valuable asset of a country's tea industry are its workers, so it is the government's duty to establish rules of fair trade in the tea sector and assure justice and protection for them.

Ceylon tea increases footprint in largest retail chains in Poland

In a significant breakthrough, Sri Lanka's tea exports to the Polish retail market will increase from 2022 onwards with the expanded supply of Ceylon tea to Poland's largest retail chains Biedronka (Ladybird) and Auchan.

Biedronka has already sourced a total of 109,699 kilos of Ceylon tea, valued at \$ 754,641.12 from the new Sri Lankan export partner between February and July 2022. This is an important opportunity for further expanding the Ceylon tea footprint in the Polish retail market, while increasing the appreciation for Sri Lanka's premium tea among the largely tea-drinking Polish consumers. Tea comprised 31.60% of Sri Lanka's exports to Poland in 2020.

Biedronka sources its products mainly from Polish suppliers. However, the retail chain offers opportunities for a range of high quality consumer products from foreign suppliers to be sold at its stores. Compliance with EU quality/standards, uninterrupted delivery and the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) profile, are essential for Biedronka, when sourcing items from foreign buyers.

The new supplies of Ceylon tea, fully produced in Sri Lanka, will be sold under Biedronka's Lion logo branded private label, "REMSEY", at the retailer's 3,154 stores across 1,100 towns and cities in Poland. It is estimated that the sale of Ceylon tea in this supermarket chain alone, will reach at least \$ 10 million by the end of 2022 and, increase to \$ 15 million in 2023. At present, the worth of its private label Ceylon tea, primarily comprising Earl Grey and black tea, is around \$ 4 million. With the entry of new Sri Lankan export partners, the Ceylon tea shelves in Biedronka and Auchan will be diversified with flavoured and iced tea, including regional varieties.

The sale of private label teas by the retail chains is estimated to be about 50% of the total Polish tea market, and has grown significantly given the emerging market opportunities, reasonable costs and the high profit margins it yields. Biedronka alone, as the largest retail chain, controls almost half of the Polish FMCG market. Further, as the wellness and organic market categories continue to flourish, key retailers are expanding their private label premium tea brands to appeal to sustainable and healthy lifestyles.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Warsaw, combining tea and tourism promotion activities, showcased an array of premium Ceylon tea, generously donated by the Empire Teas Ltd., Quest Ceylon Tea LLC and Mabroc Teas Ltd., at the November 2021 International Charity Bazaar in Warsaw. The Elpitiya Plantations PLC also joined the Sri Lanka Embassy's promotion events with tea and cinnamon gift packs. It was during the charity event that the Embassy succeeded in partnering with the Krakow based FMCG company, LIVEE POLSKA Sp., a regular supplier to Biedronka and Auchan, to seek to expand the portfolio of Ceylon tea in the supermarket chains.

The Sri Lanka Mission arranged B2B meetings for LIVEE POLSKA Sp. with the identified Sri Lankan tea companies in Cologne, Germany, during their participation at the Anuga 2021 food trade fair.

Ambassador Dhammika Kumari Semasinghe was invited to join LIVEE in the discussions and negotiations with Biedronka last year, to secure the increased and direct supply of Ceylon tea.

With the right product, and sustained promotional activities, LIVEE's goal is to double the export of Ceylon tea and other products to Poland by 2023. LIVEE will also access the Ukrainian market with smaller quantities of Ceylon tea, sourced directly from its new partners.

Discussions are already underway to source dried fruits, canned pineapples, iced teas for the two retail chains, and golden and silver tips premium Ceylon teas, etc. for luxury tea houses in Warsaw and Krakow. In the coming months, these business leads will be formalised between the Sri Lankan and Polish partners.

The successful entry of Ceylon tea into the Polish retail market, is also an important market diversification, since Sri Lanka's export partners in the European region are primarily France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands and the UK. As the retail chains/markets are connected and aligned across Europe, value added Ceylon teas and other items, for instance, in Auchan Poland, will be offered in the Auchan stores in Hungary, Romania, Portugal, or within the EU. At present, the Central/Eastern European markets continue to remain woefully underutilised by Sri Lanka. However, Sri Lanka could be optimistic about its long-term growth prospects for a number of export products by increasing its commercial engagement with Central/Eastern Europe through Poland, the largest emerging economy in the region with a population exceeding 38 million.

The Polish tea market, estimated to be worth \$ 630 million a year, is growing steadily. As the fourth largest tea market in the European region (next to Ireland, UK and Russia), Poland's yearly tea imports are around 31, 000 metric tons worth \$ 120 million. Specialising in value added teas, Poland imports a bulk of its products mainly from India and Kenya.

Biedronka, owned by the Jerónimo Martins Group of Portugal, has investments valued over PLN 14 billion in Poland since 1995. The supermarket chain with 3,154 stores across the country, is the largest private employer in Poland (70,000 workforce) and sources its products mainly from Polish suppliers.

Egyptians could face a tea supply shortage

Banks need to release US dollars or the 6,000 tonnes of tea sitting in Egypt's ports for nearly a month won't reach consumers

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A tea supply shortage could soon hit Egypt if banks in the country do not release US dollars to purchase the foreign imports of the commodity, a report has revealed.

According to the London-based news outlet, Middle East Eye, Ahmed Al-Shami – the Chairman of the Board of a maritime shipping company – informed it that approximately six thousand tonnes of El-Arosa tea have been held at Egyptian ports for almost a month, with no foreign currency to pay for its entry.

The shipping agencies reportedly cannot accept payments in Egyptian pounds because the majority of the cargo arrives at local ports on board vessels owned by foreign companies. "Cargo keeps piling at the ports, because importing companies do not have dollars to pay for the shipments," Al-Shami said.

Egyptian banks' lack of US dollars comes at a time when the country's foreign currency reserves sharply declined in July to around \$33.143 billion, contributing to the weakening of the Egyptian pound.

According to the Egyptian economist, Mamdouh Al-Wali, who spoke to the outlet, local banks are unable to make available the necessary dollars for import operations due to "a growing parallel foreign currency market that competes with the banks over the few dollars available."

He revealed that the banks "stopped providing businessmen with the dollars necessary for imports. This coincided with the restrictions imposed by the government on import processes". Al-Wali states that the government must "exempt raw materials from these restrictions and help importers release the goods piled at the ports."

In response to the looming shortage, the company that packages and sells the El-Arosa tea – El-Fath for Food Industries – submitted an official complaint to the Egyptian cabinet, including the Minister of Supply Ali Al-Moselhi.

Warning that citizens will soon not be able to find tea in supermarkets if the situation continues, the company insisted that they ask banks to release US dollars. It also requested the provision of dollars from a number of financial institutions.

Until the foreign currency is provided, El-Fath said, it may not be able to pay its 5,000 workers, engineers, chemists and administrators for much longer.

According to official estimates, Egyptians consume five billion Egyptian pounds' worth (\$260 million) of the tea leaves on an annual basis. It is therefore, seen as a staple beverage in the country, and an essential commodity.