TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO: 08

FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2024

20 Years of Excellence

LCBL
COMMODITY HOUSE

LANKA COMMODITY BROKERS LTD

P.O.Box.2077, Colombo, No: 70 & 72, Maligakanda Road, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

Tel:94 11 5222300 Fax: 94 11 5377090

E-mail: lcbl@lcbl-sl.com Website: www.lcbl-sl.com

COMMENTS

This week's Tea Auction, namely Sale #08 of 2024 was held on February 19/20, 2024 (Mon/Tue). A total weight of 4.8 mkgs was on offer, which was a marginal increase of 0.2 mkgs when compared to the previous week's quantity. The Low Grown Leafy, Semi Leafy, Tippy/Small Leaf & Premium Flowery catalogues totaled 2.1 mkgs, while the Main Sale High & Medium segment had 0.46 mkgs. The Ex Estate category had 0.72 mkgs.

The Ex-Estate sale met with irregular demand this week. The sale commenced on an easier trend but gradually strengthened as the sale proceeded. In the Western category, select BOP/BOPF's were barely steady with prices fluctuating with buyers following quality very closely. The secondary and plainer teas too lost Rs.50/--100/- and more for poorer types. There were hardly any Nuwara Eliya's BOP's on offer whilst their corresponding BOPF's sold around last levels. Uva/Uda Pussellawa better teas were firm to dearer whilst the balance fully firm. CTC TEAS – High & Medium PF1's were barely steady and lost Rs.50-100/- and more for poor leaf sorts whilst Low growns declined by Rs.50-70/- . BP1's were firm from all elevations as at times were a dearer feature. There was selective demand from shippers to Japan and the Continent whilst Russia and CIS buyers accounted for the balance teas at lower levels.

Low Grown whole leaf grades met with lesser demand and consequently prices witnessed an overall decline. Small leaf teas too tended irregular with the exception of bright tippy teas which met with fair demand. Shippers to the Middle East, Russia and the CIS countries were operative.

This week's auction comprised of 9,511 lots with a total quantity of 4,644,992 kgs.

The catalogue wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	1,642	582,862
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,403	588,766
Low Grown Tippy	1,927	925,924
High & Medium	1,104	468,627
Off Grade/BOP1A	1,885	888,956
Dust	463	414,980
Premium Flowery	360	52,251
Ex-Estate	727	722,626
Total	**9,511**	**4,644,992**

In Lighter Vein

16 wives

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Bishop said:

"4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer"

LOW GROWN TEAS

LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY

BOP1 : Select best teas declined Rs.100/- and more as the sale progressed, balance too were lower but up to a lesser extent. Lower end teas tended irregular.

OP1 : Teas in the select best category lost Rs.100-150/- and at times more whilst others too declined Rs.50-100/- per kg. Stalky invoices tended irregular.

OP : Best teas lost Rs.50/- per kg, balance were fully firm on last week levels. Lower end teas were maintained.

OPA : A few select best invoices were gained Rs.50-100/- per kg, balance were fully firm on last levels. Poorer sorts met with good demand.

PEK/PEK1 : Well-made PEK's held firm, balance were irregular and mostly lower. Shotty PEKOE1's were maintained. Lower end teas were maintained.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
BOP1	**1900-4000**	2000-4250	**1500-1800**	1600-1900	**1400-1500**	1400-1550
OP1	**1800-4000**	1900-4300	**1600-1800**	1700-1900	**800-1000**	800-1000
OP	**1450-1900**	1450-1900	**1200-1300**	1200-1350	**800-950**	800-900
OPA	**1450-2000**	1450-1900	**1000-1200**	1000-1200	**800-900**	800-900
PEK/PEK1	**1400-2500**	1450-2400	**1200-1300**	1200-1350	**1000-1150**	1000-1150

TIPPY/SMALL LEAF

BOP/BOPSP : BOP's, in general, were lower.

BOPF/BOPFSP : Select Best and Best BOPF's together with the Below Best declined. However, the teas at the lower end were firm.

FBOP/FBOP1 : Select Best and Best FBOP's together with the Below Best were easier. However, the teas at the lower end were sold around last levels. FBOP1's, in general, were lower.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Very Tippy teas met with fair demand and were firm, whilst the balance, in general, were easier. Select Best and Best FF1's were substantially lower. However, the clean leaf Below Best and the clean leaf teas at the lower end were firm. Balance eased.

FBOPFSP/EXSP : FBOPFSP – Select best showed a declined.
EXSP – Slightly declined.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
BOP/BOPSP	**1800-2050**	1900-2150	**1500-1750**	1750-1850	**1100-1450**	1200-1600
BOPF /BOPFSP	**1700-1950**	1850-2050	**1300-1650**	1500-1800	**1000-1250**	1100-1400
FBOP/FBOP1	**2000-2950**	2300-2600	**2000-2500**	2000-2200	**1600-1900**	1600-1900
FBOPF/FBOPF1	**2000-2350**	1950-2350	**1700-1900**	1550-1800	**1300-1600**	1100-1500
FBOPFSP/EXSP	**5500-6050**	4500-5400	**3500-5000**	3500-4440	**2500-3400**	2200-3500

MEDIUM GROWN LEAFY/SEMI LEAFY TEAS

FBOP : Best FBOP's on offer declined in value; below best varieties too were easier on last levels, Teas at the lower end were firm towards the close.

FBOPF/FBOPF1 : Best teas on offer lost Rs.20-40/-; below best and poorer sorts too tended irregular.

PEK/PEK1 : Well made shotty invoices were firm to dearer by Rs.25/- and more, others tended irregular.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	Best		Below Best		Others	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
FBOP	**1750-2150**	1850-2550	**1300-1750**	1400-1850	**1000-1300**	1100-1400
FBOPF/FBOPF1	**1700-2000**	1800-2150	**1500-1700**	1600-1800	**1200-1500**	1300-1600
PEK/PEK1	**1600-2050**	1550-1850	**1000-1600**	1000-1550	**900-1000**	900-1000

HIGH GROWNS TEAS

BOP : Best Western's - were barely steady with price fluctuations following quality. Teas in the Below Best category were irregular following quality, whilst the Plainer sorts declined by up to Rs.50/- per kg and more for the poorer sorts. Nuwara Eliya's – Not available. Uva/Uda Pussellawa's - Better teas were firm and dearer, whilst the others sold around last week s levels.

BOPF: Best Western's - Select high-priced teas of last week declined by Rs.100/- per kg and more, whilst the others sold around last with price fluctuations following quality. Teas in the Below Best and Plainer categories which commenced Rs.50/- per kg easier strengthened as the sale progressed. Nuwara Eliya's sold around last levels. Uva/Uda Pussellawa's - Better teas gained by Rs.50-70/- per kg whilst the others were firm and dearer to a lesser extent.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Best Westerns	**1280-1550**	1280-1550	**1340-1700**	1340-1800
Below Best Westerns	**1180-1220**	1180-1220	**1140-1240**	1160-1280
Plainer Westerns	**1020-1120**	1040-1160	**1040-1120**	1040-1120
Nuwara Eliyas	**N/A**	N/A	**1280-1320**	N/A
Brighter UdaPussellawas	**1400**	1220	**1160**	1160
Other Uda Pussellawas	**1000**	1020	**1020-1100**	1000-1080
Best Uva's	**1300-1400**	1280-1480	**1140-1160**	1320-1340
Other Uva's	**1020**	N/A	**890-1100**	1080-1140

MEDIUM GROWN TEAS

BOP : Large Leaf teas continued to sell well, whilst the others declined by Rs.50/- per kg on average.

BOPF : Sold around last week s levels.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BOP		BOPF	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Best Westerns	**750-2000**	800-2000	**870-1160**	750-1160

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN:

BP1 - Continued to sell well at firm to dearer rates.
PF1 - Select neat leaf teas were firm, whilst the others were Rs.20-30/- per kg lower following quality.

MEDIUM GROWN:

BP1 - Select invoices were dearer whilst the others were irregular.
PF1 - Better sorts were barely steady, whilst the others were irregular following quality.

LOW GROWN:

BP1 - Continued to sell well around last.
PF1 - Declined by Rs.50-70/- per kg and more following quality.

Quotations (Rs./Kg)	BP1		PF1	
	This Week	**Last Week**	**This Week**	**Last Week**
High	-	1120-1340	**1000-1140**	1140-1320
Medium	**830-1280**	1320	**770-1200**	780-1240
Low	**830-1500**	740-1480	**980-1500**	820-1650

OFF GRADES

FGS/FGS1 : Select Best Liquoring FNGS/FNGS1 appreciated Rs.20-30/- per kg. Best teas dear Rs.20/-. Poorer types were firm to dearer by Rs.25-50/- per kg whilst well-made Low Grown FNGS/FNGS1 were firm on last Others dearer Rs.25-50/-.

BM : Well-made BM's irregularly lower. Best types advanced Rs.20-30/-Poorer varieties were declined by Rs.10-30/- per kg. Below best types lost Rs.10-20/- per kg.

BOP1A : PEK1's reducers appreciated by Rs.50-75/- per kg whilst best BOP1A's firm to dearer Rs.50-75/- per kg. Below best and poorer types advanced Rs.20-30/- per kg.

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Good Fannings (Orthodox)	**890-1160**	880-1100	**780-890**	750-880	**780-920**	750-880
Good Fannings (CTC)	**750-900**	750-950	**750-860**	750-900	**750-880**	750-980
Other Fannings (Orthodox)	**650-720**	650-690	**650-720**	660-700	**650-720**	660-720
Other Fannings (CTC)	**N/A**	N/A	**N/A**	N/A	**N/A**	N/A
Good BM's	**820-860**	800-830	**830-880**	830-860	**900-1300**	900-1450
Other BM's	**N/A**	650-720	**N/A**	630-730	**N/A**	630-740
Best BOP1As	**750-790**	750-770	**780-860**	750-810	**870-1500**	830-1450
Other BOP1As	**730-790**	730-770	**720-780**	720-770	**720-810**	720-790

DUST

DUST/DUST1: High grown liquoring Dust/Dust1's were firm to dearer following quality, whilst their secondaries and below best types were fully firm to dearer. Low Grown clean Dust/Dust1's were Rs.40-60/- dearer.

PD : High & Medium teas met with an improved demand and gained Rs.20-40/-, whilst the mid grown teas also followed a similar trend. Low Growns were irregular and mostly lower

QUOTATIONS (Rs./kg)	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW	
	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
Good Primary Dust1 (Orthodox)	**880-1700**	850-1700	**760-1220**	800-1220	**730-940**	680-870
Good Primary PD (CTC)	**830-1300**	830-1240	**730-1320**	630-1320	**700-1460**	650-1360
Secondary Dust	**700-1220**	700-1180	**700-750**	600-850	**720-940**	620-880

WESTERN MEDIUM

Harangalla	BOP	2000/-
***Hatale**	**BOPSP**	**1900/-**
***Uplands**	**BOPSP**	**1900/-**
***Galgewatte**	**BOPSP**	**1850/-**
***Galgewatte**	**BOPF/BOPFSP**	**1420/-**
***Orange Field**	**BOP1**	**2150/-**
Harangalla	BOP1	2150/-
Dartry Valley	BOP1	2150/-
***Orange Field**	**FBOP/FBOP1**	**2150/-**
Uplands	FBOP/FBOP1	2150/-
Harangalla	FBOPF/FBOPF1	2000/-
Dartry Valley	FBOPF/FBOPF1	2000/-
***Ancoombra**	**FBOPF/FBOPF1**	**1950/-**
***Hatale**	**FBOPF/FBOPF1**	**1950/-**
***Harangalla**	**OP/OPA**	**1650/-**
***Dartry Valley**	**OP/OPA**	**1650/-**
***Dartry Valley**	**OP1**	**2000/-**
Harangala	OP1	2000/-
Craighead	PEK/PEK1	2050/-

WESTERN HIGH

Great Western	BOP	1550/-
Robgill	BOP	1550/-
Bearwell	BOP	1550/-
Queensberry	BOPSP	1600/-
Great Western	BOPF/BOPFSP	1700/-
St. Andrews	FBOP/FBOP1	2050/-
Inverness	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1900/-
Venture	OP/OPA	1750/-
Venture	OP1	1800/-
Kirkoswald	PEK/PEK1	1750/-

NUWARA ELIYA

Kenmare	BOP	1200/-
Kenmare	BOPSP	1500/-
Mahagastotte	BOPF/BOPFSP	1320/-
Court Lodge	FBOP/FBOP1	1500/-
Court Lodge	OP/OPA	1120/-
Kenmare	PEK/PEK1	1320/-

UVA MEDIUM

Halpewatte Uva	BOP	1900/-
Halpewatte Uva	BOPSP	1650/-
Dickwella	BOPF/BOPFSP	1750/-
Demodera 'S'	BOP1	2300/-
***Halpewatte Uva**	**FBOP/FBOP1**	**2150/-**
Sarnia Plaiderie	FBOP/FBOP1	2150/-
Sarnia Plaiderie	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1950/-
Ury	OP/OPA	1600/-
Gonakelle	OP/OPA	1600/-
Dickwella	OP1	1950/-
Sarnia Plaiderie	PEK/PEK1	1850/-

UVA HIGH

Kelliebedde	BOP	1400/-
Bandara Eliya	BOP	1400/-
Aislaby	BOPSP	1550/-
Bandara Eliya	BOPF/BOPFSP	1180/-
Aislaby	BOP1	1800/-
Glenanore	FBOP/FBOP1	2050/-
Aislaby	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1950/-
Glenanore	OP/OPA	1460/-
Oodowerre	OP1	2000/-
Glenanore	PEK/PEK1	1650/-

UDAPUSSELLAWA

Kirklees	BOP	1400/-
Luckyland	BOPSP	1200/-
***Mooloya**	**BOPF/BOPFSP**	**1100/-**
Liddesdale	BOPF/BOPFSP	1100/-
Ragalla	BOPF/BOPFSP	1100/-
Gampaha	FBOPF/FBOPF1	1600/-
Blairlomond	OP/OPA	1420/-
Blairlomond	PEK/PEK1	1340/-

OFF GRADES

Bogoda	BP	1650/-
Mount Vernon CTC	PF	940/-
Kosgahadola Ella	BM	1460/-
Bridwell	FNGS/FNGS1	1160/-
Holyrood	FNGS/FNGS1	1160/-
Kottiyagalla	FNGS/FNGS1	1160/-
Kenmare	FNGS/FNGS1	1160/-
Liyonta	BOP1A	1500/-
***Chandrika Estate**	**BOP1A**	**1480/-**
***Aldora**	**BOP1A**	**1480/-**

CTC TEAS

HIGH GROWN

***Dunsinane CTC**	**PF1**	**1180/-**
Dunsinane CTC	BP1	1500/-

MEDIUM GROWN

***Rothschild CTC**	**PF1**	**1200/-**
New Peacock CTC	PF1	1200/-
Delta CTC	BP1	1280/-

LOW GROWN

Kalubowitiyana CTC	PF1	1500/-
Ceciliyan CTC	BP1	1500/-

LOW GROWN LEAFY GRADES

Pothotuwa	BOP1	4000/-
***Sithaka**	**BOP1**	**3800/-**
Sithaka	OP1	4000/-
Lumbini	OP1	4000/-
Pothotuwa	OP1	4000/-
Galatara	OP	1900/-
Sanasa	OP	1900/-
Liyonta	OPA	2450/-
Lumbini	PEKOE	2550/-
Liyonta	PEKOE	2550/-
***Andaradeniya Super**	**PEKOE1**	**2300/-**

LOW GROWN TIPPY GRADES

Golden Garden	BOP	2050/-
New Mahendra	BOP	2050/-
***Selna**	**BOPA**	**2250/-**
***Andaradeniya Super**	**BOPSP**	**1950/-**
New Nivithigala	BOPSP	1950/-
***Mahaliyadda**	**BOPSP**	**1750/-**
***Sithaka**	**BOPF**	**1950/-**
***Hidellana**	**BOPF**	**1900/-**
***Wattehena**	**BOPFSP**	**1850/-**
Stream Line	BOPFSP	1850/-
Talgaswela	BOPFSP	1850/-
Parakaduwa	BOPFSP	1850/-
***Sithaka**	**FBOP**	**2950/-**
Bogoda Group	FBOP1	2300/-
***Hidellana**	**FBOP1**	**2150/-**
***Wattehena**	**FBOP1**	**2100/-**
***Hidellana**	**FBOPF**	**2200/-**
Gunawardana	FBOPF	2100/-
***Selna**	**FBOPF**	**2050/-**
Sithaka	FBOPF1	2350/-

PREMIUM FLOWERY

New Batuwangala	FBOPFSP	6050/-
Mulatiyana Hills	FBOPFSP	6050/-
New Batuwangala	FBOPFEXSP	5000/-
Kamarangapitiya	FBOPFEXSP1	4500/-
***KDU Super**	**FBOPFEXSP1**	**4100/-**

Dust

Mattakelle	DUST	1220/-
Mattakelle	DUST1	1700/-
Ceciliyan CTC	PD	1460/-

COLOMBO AUCTION – WEEKLY GROSS SALE AVERAGES

SALE NO.07 OF 14TH FEBRUARY, 2024

	2024			2023	
	Weekly	Month to Date	Year to Date	Weekly	Year to Date
Uva High Grown	1,085.88	1,034.08	1,028.36	1,231.56	1,237.72
Western High Grown	1,189.50	1,193.58	1,140.21	1,500.21	1,484.67
High Grown	1,170.98	1,163.68	1,112.39	1,430.31	1,419.10
Uva Medium	1,189.20	1,131.33	1,097.85	1,217.04	1,253.38
Western Medium	1,147.27	1,136.42	1,094.58	1,186.46	1,221.79
Medium Grown	1,157.49	1,135.23	1,095.49	1,194.56	1,230.91
Low Grown (Orthodox)	1,456.72	1,437.06	1,424.32	1,544.87	1,573.62
Combined L.G. (Orthodox + CTC)	1,428.27	1,407.08	1,400.60	1,513.45	1,545.56
Total	1,338.27	1,322.64	1,296.12	1,451.35	1,474.11

Private Sale Figures (12.02.2024 – 17.02.2024) - 170,102.00 kgs

Cumulative - 750,211.90 kgs

DETAILS OF TEAS AWAITING SALE

	Sale of 27th/28th Feb. '24		Sale of 05th/06th Mar. '24	
	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)	Lots	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	1,678	588,737	1,760	661,020
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,418	592,294	1,430	609,728
Low Grown Tippy	2,012	971,586	2,110	1,039,493
High & Medium	1,276	524,719	1,491	655,060
Off Grade/BOP1A	1,663	786,226	2,138	1,018,814
Dust	424	368,700	506	416,446
Premium Flowery	398	58,565	311	46,877
Ex-Estate	747	732,284	764	742,878
Total	9,616	4,623,111	10,510	5,190,316

FUTURE CATALOGUES CLOSURE

Sale No.11 of 13th/14th Mar, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **22nd February, 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.12 of 19th/20th Mar, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **29th February, 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

Sale No.13 of 26th/27th Mar, 2024

The Main Sale & Ex-Estate Sale catalogues are scheduled to be closed on **07th March, 2024 at 04.30 p.m.**

SALE NO. 09
AUCTION OF 27TH/28TH FEBRUARY, 2024
BROKERS' SELLING ORDER

Leafy/Semi Leafy/Tippy/BOP1A/ Premium Flowery

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

High & Medium/Off Grades/Dust

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

Ex-Estate

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

Crop & Weather

For the period 13TH to 19TH February 2024

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:

Bright weather was reported in both regions throughout the week. Fairly strong winds are expected in the Western and Nuwara Eliya regions in the week ahead by the Department of Meteorology.

Uva/ Udapussellawa Region:

The Uva and Udapussellawa regions reported clear weather throughout the week. The Department of Meteorology expects sporadic showers and windy conditions in both regions in the week ahead.

Low Growns:

The Low Grow Region reported a bright weather throughout the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, evening showers and windy conditions are expected in the Low Grown Region in the week ahead.

Crop Intake:

The Western, Nuwara Eliya and Low Grown regions maintained the crop intake, whilst the Uva and Udapussellawa regions showed an increase.

WORLD CROP STATISTICS (MKGS)

Country	Month	2022	2023	Difference +/-	To-date 2022	To-date 2023	Difference +/-
BANGLADESH	Dec.	7.80	7.80	0.000	93.80	102.90	9.10
KENYA	Nov.	49.22	50.90	1.68	477.90	515.92	38.0
MALAWI	Nov.	1.70	2.70	1.00	43.10	39.30	-3.8
NORTH INDIA	Dec.	50.00	59.8	9.80	1134.50	1131.70	-2.80
SOUTH INDIA	Dec.	14.50	17.70	3.20	231.80	236.00	4.20

Country	Month	2023	2024	Difference +/-	To-date 2023	To-date 2024	Difference +/-
SRI LANKA	**Jan.**	**18.46**	**18.73**	**0.27**	**18.46**	**18.73**	**0.27**

"Africa Tea Brokers Bulletin of Statistic

BANGLADESH AUCTION

SALE NO. 43 OF MONDAY 19th February, 2024

CTC LEAF : 48,715 packages of tea on offer met with a restricted demand.

BROKENS : A handful of well made Brokens met with a fair demand but eased in value often by Tk.5/- and more. All other descriptions saw much less demand and prices declined with heavy withdrawals. BLF teas met with fair demand at around last levels but withdrawals were heavy.

FANNINGS : A few clean Fannings met with a fair demand and were a little easier. Other varieties saw much less demand and prices eased following quality. Withdrawals were quite heavy in this category as well. BLF teas met with fair demand at around last levels but withdrawals were heavy.

DUST : 15,254 packages of tea on offer met with less demand. Good liquoring Dusts sold at around last levels with fair withdrawals. Their Mediums were an easier market and prices were also easier with more withdrawals. Plain and BLF Dusts remained difficult of sale with heavy withdrawals. Blenders lent fair interest with some interest from the Loose tea buyers.

COMMENTS : Offerings comprised of a fair weight of end of season varieties which coupled with a large weight of reprinted teas, dampened the demand. Both Blenders and Loose tea buyers were less active. As a result, withdrawals were much heavier than last.

Dusts were an easier market.

Quotations – This Week – (In Taka)

Brokens	This Week	Last Week	Fannings	This Week	Last Week	Dust	This Week	Last Week
Best	**200-210N**	200-215N	Best	**205-215**	205-220	PD	**98-231**	90-233
Good	**170-180**	180-190	Good	**170-180**	180-190	RD	**50-235**	70-220
Good Med	**155-165**	165-175	Good Med	**155-165**	165-175	D	**103-332**	83-266
Medium	**135-145**	140-155	Medium	**140-150**	145-155	CD	**133-330**	132-272
Plain	**60-100**	80-110	Plain	**60-100**	80-110	BLF	**94-1105**	109-130
BLF	**70-120**	80-120	BLF	**70-120**	80-120			

COURTESY: NATIONAL BROKERS LTD

MOMBASA TEA AUCTION MARKET REPORT

Sale No.07 of 12th & 13th FEBRUARY, 2024

There was improved demand at irregular levels following quality for the 293,239 packages available in the market with 45.74% remaining unsold.

MARKETS

Pakistan Packers and **Bazaar** showed improved support while **Egyptian Packers, Yemen** and **other Middle Eastern countries** maintained interest**. UK** lent more support with reduced activity from **Kazakhstan, other CIS states** and **Afghanistan**. **Local Packers** and **South Sudan** were more active with some enquiry from **Russia. Iran** and **Sudan** were absent while **Somalia** were active at the lower end of the market.

OFFERINGS

Leaf Grades - 178,460 packages (11,724,901.00 kilos) – 53.21% unsold.
Dust Grades - 91,140 packages (6,790,652.50 kilos) – 39.43% unsold.
Secondary Grades - 23,639 packages (1,209,798.00 kilos) – 13.62.% unsold.

LEAF GRADES (M2)

BP1:

Best – Met irregular interest varying between firm to USC20 dearer with select lines appreciating by USC42 to USC70 to easier by up to USC32 and some teas shed USC58 to USC78. The lower end in this category dropped by up to USC105 due to removal of price limits on older offerings of small holder sector teas.

Brighter – Were firm to USC22 below last levels with the lower end of this category shedding USC100.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were steady where sold; the lower end of the category lost up to USC110. Plantation mediums were easier by up to USC22 with a number remaining unsold.

Lower Medium – Were irregular varying between USC10 above last prices and selected invoices gained USC32 to easier by up to USC14.

Plainer – Ranged between firm to USC10 dearer to easier by up to USC12.

PF1:

Best – Irregular with some teas appreciating by up to USC12 and selected teas were dearer by USC20 and USC27 while others eased by up to USC20. The lower end of the category lost up to USC105 following removal of price limits on older offerings of small holder sector teas.

Brighter – Varied between steady to USC10 below last prices with some teas dearer by a similar margin.

Mediums – KTDA mediums ranged between firm to USC6 dearer to easier by up to USC12 with the lower end of the category dipping by USC77 following adjustment of minimum price on older teas. Plantation mediums varied between steady to USC14 above last levels to easier by up to USC11.

Lower Medium – Were irregular ranging between firm to USC22 dearer to easier by up to USC8.

Plainer – Saw improved competition and were irregularly dearer by up to USC40 but some teas lost up to USC18.

CTC QUOTATIONS	BP1 – USC	PF1 – USC
Best	150 – 462	312 – 404
Good	160 – 265	295 – 336
Good Medium	155 – 271	295 – 322
Medium (KTDA)	140 - 252	140 – 286
Medium (Plantations)	130 – 195	110 – 232
Lower Medium	100 – 158	085 – 173
Plainer	082 – 135	045 – 123

DUST GRADES (M1)

PDUST:

Best – Mostly easier by up to USC23 with a few lines shedding USC34 and USC41 but some lines were steady to USC10 above last levels.

Brighter – Were firm to easier by up to USC14 and select invoices lost USC23; a few teas however appreciated by up to USC8.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were mainly steady at last rates with some lines irregular varying between USC10 dearer to easier by up to USC8. Plantation mediums were firm to easier by up to USC14 but select invoices gained USC16.

Lower Medium – Ranged between USC11 dearer to USC10 below previous levels.

Plainer – Shed up to USC23.

DUST1:

Best – Varied between mainly firm to USC13 dearer to easier by up to USC8.

Brighter –Irregular ranging between steady to USC18 dearer to easier by up to USC20.

Mediums – KTDA mediums were irregular varying between firm to USC20 dearer to USC14 below last prices while plantation mediums were easier by up to USC16.

Lower Medium – Saw irregular interest ranging between USC16 dearer with selected invoices gaining USC23 to USC12 easier.

Plainer – Some teas advanced by up to USC8 with select lines dearer by USC18 while others lost up to USC12 with a few lines shedding USC20.

CTC QUOTATIONS	**PDUST – USC**	**DUST1 – USC**
Best	313 – 502	298 – 366
Good	300 – 343	270 – 328
Good Medium	302 – 332	206 – 324
Medium (KTDA)	170 – 298	174 – 312
Medium (Plantations)	114 – 222	130 – 232
Lower Medium	085 – 171	089 – 170
Plainer	051 – 119	064 – 123

SECONDARY GRADES (S1)

In the Secondary Catalogues, **BPs** were firm with **PFs** steady. Clean well sorted coloury **Fannings** were irregular but on balance easier while **similar DUSTs** sold at about previous rates. **Other Fannings** gained while **DUSTs** were easier. **BMFs** were well absorbed.

SECONDARY QUOTATIONS (USC)	**BP / BP2**	**PF / PF2**	**FNGS1/FNGS**	**DUST / DUST2**	**BMF**
Best / Good	198 – 278	212 – 266	094 – 234	103 – 301	068 – 102
Good Medium /Medium	-	-	125 – 176	129 – 261	-
Lower Medium	096 – 118	078 – 127	071 – 129	045 – 116	060 – 079
Plainer	082 – 110	058 – 093	054 – 098	035 – 092	050 – 089

20th February, 2024
-/ra.

INTERNATIONAL TEA NEWS

Boost for Kenya tea exporters as Tanzania lifts imports ban

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16 2024

A tea picker at a farm in Bomet County, Kenya on September 7, 2023.
PHOTO | BONIFACE MWANGI | NMG

Tanzania has reversed its decision to suspend imports of tea, presenting a window for Kenyan traders to resume exports to the neighbouring country.

In a memo on Wednesday, the Tea Board of Tanzania, the regulator of the country's tea sector, said it would resume issuing import licenses.
"This is to inform you that the issuance of import permits will resume with effect from February 19, 2024," said the board memo to tea processors, blenders, packers, and traders.

"With this resumption, you are all reminded to observe all terms and conditions as stipulated in the Tea Act and Regulations before and after importation to ensure that you conduct fair business, and the tea reaches the final consumers in the quality that meets domestic and international standards."

Tanzania suspended the issuance of new tea import permits earlier this month amid concerns about the low-quality shipments into its market.

Kenya has lauded Tanzania's decision to resume the issuance of tea importation permits after it lobbied for the country to reverse the suspension of the issuance of permits.

"We sincerely appreciate our Tanzania colleagues for the audience on the margins of the EAC (East African Community) Sectoral Council in Arusha to resolve this matter," said Trade Principal Secretary (PS) Ombudo K'Ombudo on his X (formerly Twitter) handle.

The PS added that the two trade partners would hold a Joint Trade Council in the coming weeks to review and resolve barriers that are affecting trade between the two neighbours.

However, Kenya's exports of tea to Tanzania remain small but has been striving to grow its exports to its EAC partner to boost foreign exchange earnings from the cash crop.

Out of the 40 export destinations for Kenyan tea in 2022, Tanzania took up the least volume of consignments.

In 2022 for instance, Kenya exported just 1,200 kilogrammes of the leaf to Tanzania, ranking the country 40th of the 40 countries that Kenya sold its tea during the period.

Pakistan, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) remain the largest buyers of Kenya's tea globally respectively.

As part of efforts to improve exports of tea, the Kenyan government is also planning to drop the minimum price of $2.43 per kg of tea sold at the Mombasa auction.

The decision follows an outcry by traders that they are stuck with piles of unsold consignments of the green leaf as buyers have stayed away.

The minimum price was introduced in 2021 for tea sold by the Kenya Tea Development Agency.

WHY BRITAIN IS NOT THE ONLY TEA-LOVING NATION THREATENED BY RED SEA HOUTHI ATTACKS

Teatime might be at risk, as Britain's most sacred tradition could be affected by the Houthi attacks on supply ships in the Red Sea, it's been reported this week.

The first sign of disruption to the shipment of tea to the UK was noted by British supermarket chain Sainsbury's, which gave this notice: "We are experiencing supply issues affecting the nationwide supply of black tea. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to be back in full supply soon."

Speaking to the Times, Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, said: "There is temporary disruption to some black tea lines, but the impact on consumers will be minimal as retailers are not expecting significant challenges."

Over half of all the British tea is sourced from India and Kenya with that supply chain depending on Red Sea shipping routes, explains the Institute of Export and International Trade.

The origin and spread of tea culture

Tea leaves after harvesting - Canva

Tea is a central part of modern British culture. It is the third biggest consumer of tea per capita, after Türkiye and Ireland, with 84% of Brits drinking at least one cup of tea a day.

The earliest examples of tea drinking took place in southern China, likely in the Yunnan region at least as early as 5,000 years ago. Cultivation of tea plants have proliferated from there with the first shipment of the leaves to Europe made by the Dutch East India company sourcing tea from Macau in 1607.

Fun fact: the name a country calls tea today is related to the route it accessed the plant from due to different dialects of Chinese. In the north, dialects pronounced the character for tea 茶 as "cha", while the south was more likely to pronounce it as "te" or "ta". Areas which accessed their tea via the northern land route – Russia, India and the Middle East – are more likely to call the drink a variant of "cha" or "chai", while those who accessed it via southern sea routes – England, the Netherlands and Portugal – opted for a version of "tea".

Shortly after in the 17th century, the English started importing tea from Macau, possibly due to the influence of King Charles II's wife, the Portuguese princess Catherine of Braganza.

Over the next century, the drink went from the preserve of the upper classes – due to high taxes levied against tea – to a popular drink for all.

Europe's unique tea taste

Classic British mug - Canva

Unlike most of the rest of the world, the UK and Ireland love their tea with a splash of milk. While this is in part due to the milk softening the bitter taste of the leaves, it also might be due to the delicate porcelain cups people used.

By putting a drop of milk in the cups beforehand, you could avoid the sudden shock of hot liquid from cracking their crockery.

Milky tea is so loved that around 98% of the 100 million teas brewed daily in the UK contain a splash of milk.

To understand just how popular teatime is to Brits, the National Grid has to allocate extra power due to surge demands when everyone puts on the kettle at the same time during advert breaks for popular TV soap operas like ‘Coronation Street’.

And that effect is generally heightened when the England men's football team play in a major tournament.

The record surge demand on the power grid came after the penalty shootout for the 1990 England v West Germany FIFA World Cup semi-final.

The Irish drink even more tea than the British with the average citizen drink four to six cups of the stuff every day. Ireland began importing tea from England in the 19th century. For a long time, the English would impose taxes on tea coming to Ireland making it prohibitively expensive.

As a result, much of the tea that first got the Irish hooked was of a lesser quality than the stuff in England, making that extra splash of milk and a bit of sugar even more essential.

Turkish tea - Canva

The absolute top tea drinking nation in Europe though is Türkiye. Tea history runs deep in the Eurasian nation, as there is evidence of Silk Road traders bringing the leaves as far back as the 5th century AD.

In Türkiye, tea is brewed in a çaydanlık, a two-stage teapot that boils the water in one chamber before steeping the leaves in another.

The tea is then poured in small tulip-shaped glasses and often enjoyed with a sugar cube.

****