**Ceramic**

**KSA**

Summary:

Saudi Ceramic Co. expects a 2% rise in production costs due to fuel price adjustments starting January 1, 2025. The impact will reflect in Q1 2025 results. The company is working on cost reduction and efficiency plans to mitigate this effect.

**Global**

Summary:

1. USA: Corning Incorporated will invest up to $315 million to expand its Canton facility, creating 130 manufacturing and 175 construction jobs. This investment supports semiconductor manufacturing and aligns with New York's efforts to boost the industry, enhancing local economic growth and innovation.
2. USA: Geopolymerized Coating Bricks from Ceramic Waste. This global challenge reduces resource reliance and CO2 emissions. Research shows discarded bricks have high aluminosilicate content, improving strength and lowering costs for low-income housing. Challenges like efflorescence control are being addressed in this study.
3. India: As per Managing Director, Regency Ceramics Ltd- The increased housing demand, along with a growing middle-class segment seeking to buy or build homes, has significantly boosted the demand for ceramic tiles in 2024. Leading ceramic manufacturers are also focused on expanding their presence in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, driven by infrastructure development, urbanization, and rising end-user consumption. These factors will further strengthen the Indian ceramics sector, positioning it for long-term growth and global competitiveness in 2025 and beyond.

**Top Domains:**

* argaam.com
* pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
* onlinelibrary.wiley.com
* businessnewsthisweek.com

**Contracting Services NDD Monitoring:**

**KSA**

Summary:

1. Arco Turnkey Solutions has acquired Laing O'Rourke Joinery, enhancing its construction capabilities in the UAE. This acquisition strengthens Arco's position as a leading provider of high-quality turnkey solutions and supports its growth in modular construction for major projects across the region.
2. The upcoming RIDW25 forum will focus on arbitration of construction disputes under the SCCA rules, celebrating 25 years of the Riyadh International Dispute Resolution Forum. It aims to address unique challenges in the construction industry within Saudi Arabia's evolving legal framework. By uniting legal professionals and industry stakeholders, the forum seeks to enhance arbitration's effectiveness as a dispute resolution method. Overall, RIDW25 underscores the growing importance of arbitration in managing construction-related conflicts in the region.
3. Eslam Radwan, CEO of BUNA, discusses Saudi Arabia's evolving construction industry, focusing on opportunities in Mecca and Medina. BUNA aims to enhance infrastructure and quality of life through unique developments, targeting a revenue of SAR1.5 billion and increasing public-private partnerships in the coming years.

**Top Domains:**

* finance.yahoo.com
* globenewswire.com
* zawya.com
* arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. Kenya: President William Ruto warned contractors delaying key projects, emphasizing the government's commitment to deliver on promises. He expressed dissatisfaction with the Kisii Cancer Centre's progress and threatened contract termination if improvements aren't made. The project costs Sh 2.9 billion and involves multiple partners.
2. USA: San Francisco received $35.8 million for infrastructure improvements linked to 2,981 new affordable housing units. Key projects include traffic signal upgrades on Lincoln Way, streetscape revitalization on Folsom-Howard, and enhancements on Powell Street and Yerba Buena Island bridges, creating significant construction opportunities.

**Top Domains:**

* wordpress.org
* pinterest.com
* medium.com

**Aluminium:**

**KSA**

Summary**:**

1. National unified procurement company invites tenders for Supply of Medical Gas Mixture in 10L Aluminum Cylinders in Riyadh.

**Top Domains:**

* Tendersbiz.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. China: China’s aluminium industry has been deeply tainted by allegations of forced labor. Approximately 9% of global aluminium supply comes from this region, where the Chinese government has been accused of perpetrating crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim communities. Major Chinese aluminium producers in Xinjiang, such as Xinjiang East Hope Nonferrous Metals, Tianshan Aluminum, and Xinfa Group Xinjiang, have been implicated in government-backed labor transfer programs that effectively coerce Uyghurs into work. The United States has implemented the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, creating a presumption that goods made in whole or in part in Xinjiang are not eligible for import. The European Union is preparing similar legislation to prohibit imports linked to forced labor.
2. Global: The global‍ aluminum industry is, poised for‌ significant change in the coming years. The aluminum industry’s future is‌ inextricably linked to global economic growth and sustainability initiatives as the world transitions towards greener technologies, the demand for lightweight, recyclable aluminum is expected to increase.

**Top Domains:**

* al.com
* pmldaily.com
* world-today-news.com

**Construction M&E:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

**Steel Rebar:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Canada: The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) found that dumping concrete reinforcing bars from Bulgaria, Thailand, and the UAE harms Canada's industry. Anti-dumping duties will be enforced to protect domestic manufacturers. This decision supports fair trade and aims to safeguard jobs and investment in Canada.
2. Turkmenistan: Turkmenistan will buy 150,000 tons of Afghan steel rebar in 2025. Afghanistan is self-sufficient in production, employing thousands. However, factories face electricity shortages. The Steel Association urges the government to allocate iron mines to support the industry, which has over 40 operating factories.
3. Global: The Steel Rebar Market, valued at $230.03 billion in 2023, is projected to grow at 5% annually, reaching nearly $323.68 billion by 2030. Growth is driven by urbanization, infrastructure projects, and government initiatives for sustainable construction. Innovations in manufacturing are enhancing product quality and demand.
4. Egypt: Egypt's Finance Ministry has introduced a temporary import tariff of 15% on iron billets and 25% on steel rebar for 180 days to protect local industries from unfair competition. This follows previous tariffs on steel from China, Turkey, and Ukraine.

**Top Domains:**

* thedailyscrum.ca
* tolonews.com
* openpr.com
* dailynewsegypt.com

**Flat Rolled Steel:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Malaysia: Malaysia is reviewing anti-dumping duties on cold-rolled steel coils from China, South Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. This follows a request from Mycron Steel CRC Sdn Bhd due to concerns about potential dumping. Stakeholders must submit surveys by January 23, 2025, with results announced within 180 days.
2. South Korea: Hyundai Steel, South Korea's second-largest metallurgical company, has filed an application with the Korea Trade Commission for the imposition of anti-dumping duties on imports of Japanese hot-rolled steel that have caused material damage to local steelmakers.
3. Thailand: Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) has decided to extend anti-dumping (AD) duties imposed on boron-added hot-rolled steel originating from China for another five years to November 7 2029, Mysteel Global has learned.
4. USA: US exported around 28,000 tons of hot-rolled steel bars in October, marking a decrease of 4% compared to the preceding month and an increase of 2.2% from the same month of the previous year.

**Top Domains:**

* steelradar.com
* yieh.com

**Cement:**

**KSA**

Summary:

1. KAUST launched a study on cement manufacturing to reduce carbon emissions, supporting Saudi Arabia's goal for a carbon-neutral economy by 2060. The Future Cement Initiative (FCI) collaborates with key partners to improve production methods and enhance sustainability in the cement industry.
2. Al-Jouf Cement Company expects a 10.1% rise in production costs due to recent fuel price changes, starting Q1 2025. They aim to minimize this impact and improve efficiency. Similarly, Riyadh Cement Company anticipates a 9.6% cost increase from the same changes.

**Top Domains:**

* saudiarabiaonlinenews.com
* gulfconstructiononline.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. Pakistan: Cement prices in Pakistan range from Rs 1365 to Rs 1425, influenced by tax changes and market conditions. Major brands like Maple Leaf and BestWay are around Rs 1400. Profitability is expected to rise by 7% in FY25's second quarter, despite a 4.76% sales drop in December 2024.
2. India:  Indian cement manufacturers are likely to see low volume growth and declining profits in Q3 FY24-25 due to weak pricing. Analysts predict an 18% YoY drop in EBITDA, with major firms facing challenges from competition and seasonal factors. Demand growth is expected at 6-8%.
3. Nigeria: The Nigerian Institute of Building warns that rising cement prices from N2,600 to N3,500 will worsen construction quality and home ownership struggles. They urge the government to regulate prices and address infrastructure issues to prevent substandard buildings and economic decline.

**Top Domains:**

* Cemnet.com
* pakobserver.net
* thefreelibrary.com

**Glass:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

NA

**Elevator:**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

**NA**

**HVAC**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The global residential HVAC market is projected to grow by USD 39.62 billion from 2025-2029, driven by rising demand in construction and smart technology trends. Key players include Carrier, Daikin, and Honeywell. Challenges include equipment issues and supply chain disruptions.
2. USA: EPA guidelines require all new HVAC systems to use certain refrigerants to lower the potential impact on global warming which will make the HVAC system more expensive by 30%-50% more.

**Top Domains:**

* prnewswire.com
* newsbreak.com

**Wood:**

**KSA**

Summary:

NA

**Global**

Summary:

1. Vietnam: Bình Định Economic Zone has approved a wood and furniture project in Nhơn Hội Industrial Park, with an investment of over VNĐ182 billion (US$7.17 million). The factory will produce various wooden products and is expected to start operations in January 2028.
2. Estonia: In December 2024, Estonia's producer price index rose by 0.4% from November and 1.1% from December 2023, driven by higher prices in wood, machinery repair, and food production. The export price index increased by 1.4%, while the import price index rose by 0.5%.
3. Austria: Demand for softwood sawlogs in Austria is strong, with rising prices except in Burgenland. Spruce A/C 2b+ logs range from €95 to €115/m³. Larch demand is high, while beech prices are declining. The hardwood market favors oak and ash, but beech faces pressure. Energy wood demand is low.
4. Russia: Scientists at Perm National Research Polytechnic University have created a method to convert wood waste into ceramic bricks. They found that adding 11-12% hydrolytic lignin to clay and firing it at 980-1040°C produces high-quality building materials. This approach helps recycle wood processing waste effectively.
5. Global: The global wood coatings market is set to grow significantly, reaching USD 12 billion by 2025, driven by construction and furniture demand. Key trends include eco-friendly products and innovations like UV-cured coatings. Residential use leads the market, with a focus on aesthetics and sustainability.
6. USA: Maine has received a substantial $22 million investment aimed at boosting the development of innovative wood products. This funding is expected to stimulate economic growth and job creation in the region.
7. Gambia: The rising global demand for hardwood, particularly rosewood, is impacting Gambia's revenue and exacerbating economic challenges due to illegal logging, corruption, and poverty. Despite government bans and international agreements like CITES, significant environmental and economic losses continue. To address this, sustainable practices such as ecotourism and agroforestry are essential for providing alternative livelihoods to local communities while promoting conservation and combating illegal timber trade.

**Top Domains:**

* socialbites.ca
* whatech.com
* impactmedia.co.uk
* globenewswire.com
* globalwoodmarketsinfo.com
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