

INSIDE METALS



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TOP NEWS

Tianqi buys stake in lithium miner SQM from Nutrien for \$4.1 bln

China's Tianqi Lithium Corp has purchased a 23.77 percent share in Chilean lithium miner SQM from Canadian fertilizer giant Nutrien, the Chilean stock exchange said on Monday, for a total sale price of \$4.066 billion. The sale to Tianqi comes as Chinese companies increasingly scour the globe for the raw materials necessary to ramp up Chinese production of electric vehicles.

China copper premiums slump to 18-month low as demand wanes

Premiums for imports of copper into China, the world's biggest copper consumer, sank to an 18-month low on Monday in a sign that demand for physical metal is waning after a buying spree. The premiums, paid on top of benchmark three-month London Metal Exchange (LME) prices, fell 10.7 percent from Friday's levels to \$62.50 a tonne, the lowest since June 2017.

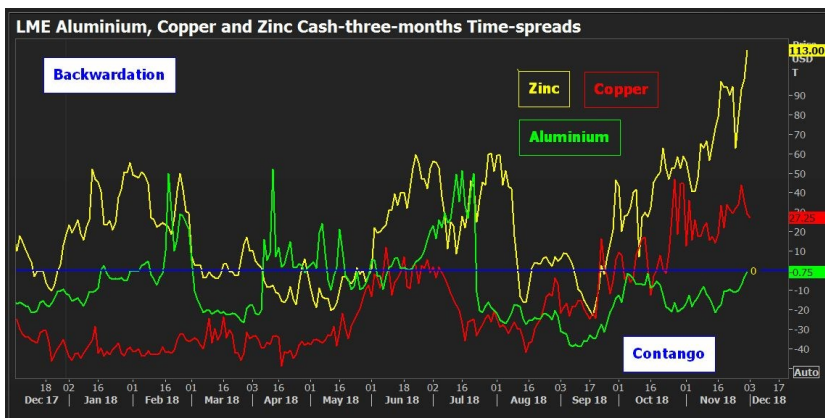
Glencore appoints new industrial mining chief, copper marketing head to retire

Glencore has appointed Peter Freyberg to the newly created role of head of industrial mining, the global trader and miner said on Monday, while its head of copper marketing Telis Mistakidis retires at the end of the year. The London-listed miner said billionaire Mistakidis, who owns a 3.2 percent stake in the company, will be replaced by Nico Paraskevas.

Canada's construction steel buyers face tariff 'roulette'

Canadian steel buyers are racing to get construction steel into the country to claim first-come, first-serve exemptions from tariffs that were meant to stabilize the country's market in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's metals tariffs. With steel prices already high, the companies that fabricate steel structures used in major building projects say the import controls, which cover at least 600,000 tonnes of steel, are making it even more difficult to operate because they cannot predict the price of basic materials.

CHART OF THE DAY



Congo declares cobalt "strategic", nearly tripling royalty rate

Democratic Republic of Congo has declared cobalt a "strategic" substance, a government decree showed on Monday, nearly tripling the royalty rate miners will pay on the key component in electric batteries to 10 percent. Prime Minister Bruno Tshibala signed the decree, which is dated Nov. 24, despite fierce opposition from leading investors including Glencore and China Molybdenum, who have lobbied against tax hikes under a new mining code adopted earlier this year.

COLUMN-Trade war relief for metals, but bull-bear battle rages on: Andy Home

Is it a ceasefire, a truce or the opening to a lasting peace deal? The jury is very much out on exactly what Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed during their talks at the G20 summit in Buenos Aires. But for industrial metals it's enough. The London Metal Exchange (LME) suite of base metals is today enjoying a relief rally after weeks of bludgeoning from bearish funds.

Indonesia says two companies can resume nickel ore exports

Indonesia has granted permission for two commodity companies in the country to restart exports of nickel ore as they have made progress on smelter projects, a government spokesman said on Tuesday. Indonesia grants mineral ore export permits to firms building smelters and reviews their construction progress every six months.

Malaysia sets licence renewal conditions for rare earths miner Lynas

Malaysia's Energy and Environment Ministry on Tuesday set conditions for future renewal for rare earths miner Lynas Corp's licences to operate in the country. The ministry said in a statement that Lynas must remove radioactive residues from Malaysia and will need to submit an action plan for non-radioactive waste disposal for future licences or permission renewals.

COLUMN-Winter is looking a little weird for China's commodities: Russell

The northern winter usually leads to a demand and price peak for several major commodities in Asia, but this year is bucking the trend for coal, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and iron ore. There doesn't appear to be one single driving narrative causing the break with the usual seasonal patterns, rather a variety of unrelated, or loosely related factors are at work, but with China as a common thread.

Sudan allows local private sector firms to export gold

Sudan will allow local private sector firms to export gold, Prime Minister Moataz Moussa said on Monday, relaxing the central bank's grip over exports of the metal as the government tries to shore up the country's struggling economy. The measure is part of efforts to stem smuggling of gold, one of the country's main sources of foreign currency.

Two Aurubis copper smelters back in operation after repairs

Aurubis AG, Europe's biggest copper producer, said on Monday two smelters had resumed operations after unscheduled repair shutdowns and a third smelter was expected to resume production this week. Aurubis said on Nov. 26 the Hamburg and Lünen smelters in Germany and the Pirdop plant in Bulgaria had made unscheduled repair shutdowns which meant it would miss analysts' profit forecasts for its current 2018-2019 financial year.

Industrialist Sanjeev Gupta buys U.S.-based KCI for \$320 million

British industrialist Sanjeev Gupta's privately owned GFG Alliance has signed a deal to acquire U.S.-based steel wire producer Keystone Consolidated Industries (KSI) for \$320 million. The GFG Alliance, whose assets spans industrials group Liberty House and energy group SIMEC, is a growing commodities conglomerate that been snapping up distressed steel, aluminium and energy assets around the world.

MARKET NEWS

Gold prices gained after hitting a more than one-month high earlier in the session, as the **dollar** slipped after the United States and China agreed to a temporary truce in their trade conflict that rattled global markets. **Copper** gave up some of Monday's gains as doubts over China's demand growth and whether the country will be able to resolve its trade row with the United States within a 90-day timeframe came into focus.

(Inside Metals is compiled by Shaina Ahluwalia in Bengaluru)

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