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1. TOP STORIES**Russian FSB detains Ukrainians in Crimea on sabotage charges**

Kyiv accused Moscow of capturing more hostages to blackmail Ukraine

Read more in CRIMEAN ISSUE

Ukraine says fresh IMF loan in jeopardy

The IMF insists that Ukraine should pass a balanced budget, and carry out pension system and land market reforms

Read more in ECONOMY

Government sets up new gas pipeline operator

The new entity has been established to separate gas transport business from Naftohaz activities

Read more in ENERGY

2. ARMED CONFLICT IN EASTERN UKRAINE**Disengagement near Stanytsya Luhanska stalls over shooting – ATO HQ**

The disengagement of troops near Stanytsya Luhanska has stalled over pro-Russian militants' continuing fire attacks on the positions of the antiterrorist operation (ATO) forces in violation of the 21 September 2016 decision of the trilateral contact group on a Donbas settlement, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry's spokesman for ATO issues, Col **Andriy Lysenko**, has said.

He repeated that the Ukrainian troops were ready to pull back but the militants did not meet the requisite conditions.

OSCE reports sharp increase in fighting in Donbas

There has been a sharp increase, by over one third, in fighting in eastern Ukraine, **Ertugrul Apakan**, chief monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), said in Minsk at the 9 November meeting of the security subgroup of the trilateral contact group. Militants were observed using banned weapons, **Darka Olifer**, the press secretary of Ukraine's representative at the group **Leonid Kuchma**, has said.

In Apakan's words, fire attacks have been happening near Shyrokyne, Pavlopil, Avdiyivka and Svitlodarsk.

Olifer said that based on Apakan's report the sides agreed it was necessary to open a checkpoint in Zolote, Luhansk Region by 23 November.

Poland suggests broader negotiation format on Donbas

If the Minsk agreements are not working, its participants should consider a new format, the Polish ambassador to Ukraine, **Jan Pieklo**, has said.

He added that Poland and the USA could join an alternative format which would also deal with the deoccupation of Crimea.

Earlier, Polish President **Andrzej Duda** said that the Normandy Four format (Ukraine, Germany, France and Russia) was ineffective, adding that Poland could play a more active role in a Donbas settlement.

Pope Francis raises 10m euros for Ukrainians

Pope **Francis** has raised over 10m euros for victims of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, the Apostolic Nunciature in Ukraine has said.

Earlier, he founded a special committee to help Ukrainians. The funds were raised by European Catholic parishes.

Germany is planning to allocate an additional 20m euros to the construction of housing for internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

3. CRIMEAN ISSUE**FSB reports detention of "Ukrainian saboteurs" in Sevastopol**

The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) has said that on 9 November 2016 it detained a "sabotage and terrorist group" of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry in Sevastopol. The group allegedly included **Volodymyr Dudko**, **Oleksiy Besarabov** and **Dmytro Shtyblikov**. The latter two were analysts of the Ukrainian think-tank Nomos which suspended its operation in Crimea in 2014. The FSB said they were preparing explosions at important military and infrastructure facilities in Crimea.

On 10 November, the Russia-controlled Leninskiy district court of Sevastopol arrested them for two months.

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry said the FSB had made up a story.

The Ukrainian first deputy speaker and representative at the humanitarian subgroup of the trilateral contact group on a Donbas settlement, **Iryna Herashchenko**, accused Russia of taking the three Ukrainians hostages in order to blackmail Kyiv.

On 10 August, the FSB in Crimea detained two Ukrainian citizens, **Yevhen Panov** and **Andriy Zakhtey**, and accused them of plotting terror attacks on the peninsula. Both were transported to Moscow's Lefortovo prison.

US envoy to OSCE: Russia building military presence in Crimea

Russia is building up its military presence in Crimea by refurbishing Ukrainian and Soviet infrastructure, expanding bases and stationing more soldiers on Ukrainian

soil, US ambassador to the OSCE **Daniel Baer** told the Permanent Council meeting in Vienna on 10 November 2016.

This foreign military build-up is occurring without Ukraine's consent and in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said.

He added that the USA remains "deeply troubled" by ongoing reports of human rights abuses in Crimea, including punishment of people for their opposition to Russia's occupation.

EU introduces sanctions against Russian State Duma MPs elected in Crimea

According to the Official Journal of the EU on 9 November 2016, it has expanded the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity. It now includes Russian State Duma MPs elected in Crimea – **Konstantin Bakharev, Ruslan Balbek, Andrey Kozenko, Svetlana Savchenko, Pavel Shperov** and **Dmitriy Belik**.

The sanctions against two more State Duma members elected in Crimea – **Natalya Poklonskaya** and **Mikhail Sheremet** – have been in place since 2014.

In June, the EU extended the sanctions which were introduced over the illegal annexation of Crimea. Restrictions on doing business with Crimea are in effect until 23 June 2017.

Ukraine submits UN draft resolution on human rights violations in Crimea

Ukraine has submitted to the UN a draft resolution condemning human rights abuses in Russia-occupied Crimea, Ukraine's permanent representative at the UN, **Volodymyr Yelchenko**, has said.

The document contains a request to the UN secretary-general to seek ways and means "allowing safe and unhindered access to Crimea for existing regional and international mechanisms to monitor the human rights situation there."

The draft resolution was co-authored by 38 delegations. It will be put to vote at the UN General Assembly on 15 November 2016.

British Foreign Secretary **Boris Johnson** said following a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart that the UK would support the resolution.

Russia flatly objects to the adoption of the document.

4. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

UKRAINE-RUSSIA

SBU says Russia plans to destabilise Ukraine

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has said it is in possession of documents which expose Russia's efforts to destabilise the situation in Ukraine in November,

the so-called Crankshaft plan, which includes a series of mass protests aimed at discrediting the incumbent authorities, causing a snap parliamentary election and derailing Ukraine's European integration.

According to the SBU, the person in charge of the plan's direct administration and implementation is **Vladislav Ardzimba**, the first deputy of Russian presidential adviser **Vladislav Surkov**. Armenian national **Armen Martirosyan** is directly involved in the organization of protests, it said. Martirosyan was briefly detained by Ukrainian law enforcers on 21 October after the SBU grounded the Belavia flight he was on. (*Read more about the incident in UKRAINE-BELARUS section*).

Earlier, Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Pavlo Klimkin** said that Russia will continue to destabilise Ukraine and the entire region. Ukraine's success in Europe would mean absolute de-legitimisation of Russia, he said during the VI National Expert Forum organised by Gorshenin Institute.

It should be noted that a nation-wide protest of bank depositors is scheduled to start on 15 November. According to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the main focus of future protests starting from 17 November will be shifted to the question of high utility rates.

According to an opinion poll conducted by Gorshenin Institute, the majority of respondents are not willing to sacrifice their well-being for the sake of reforms, as only one-fifth of the population is ready to suffer financial hardships for the sake of successful reforms (22.1 percent) and nearly three quarters are not willing to do so (73.1 percent). This creates a wide field of possibilities for populist forces, Gorshenin Institute experts said.

Russia bans cargo shipment by 10 Ukrainian railway operators

On 3 November 2016, Russian Railways acted on a government telegram banning cargo shipment across Russia by 10 Ukrainian railway operators.

On 31 October, Ukraine prolonged sanctions on Russian companies and introduced additional restrictive measures, which now also apply to 11 Russian railway operators, including SG-Trans, which transports liquefied Russian gas to Ukraine.

Russia denies entry to third countries' citizens arriving from Belarus

Citizens of third countries will not be allowed to enter Russia if they arrive from Belarus, the Russian Foreign Ministry has said. It explained that foreigners may enter Russia through international checkpoints only, whereas these are absent on the Russian-Belarusian border.

In 2015, Ukraine and Russia cancelled direct flights as a result of mutual sanctions on airlines. Thus Minsk airport became the main transit hub between the two countries.

Ukrainian ombudsman's envoy in Russia dies in Moscow

A well-known journalist, a representative of the Ukrainian parliament's human rights commissioner in Russia, **Vladimir Shreydler**, has died in Moscow at the age of 49. Reportedly, he died due to heart failure.

According to the QHA website, Shreydler's family said that he was driven to death, as he started to receive threats lately.

UKRAINE-EU

EU to deliver on visa-free travel commitment to Ukraine in coming weeks - commissioner

Ukraine has met all the criteria of visa liberalisation with the EU and in the coming weeks the EU should deliver on its commitments, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations **Johannes Hahn** told Ukrainian President **Petro Poroshenko** by phone on 10 November 2016.

It should be noted that according to media reports the abolition of visas for Ukrainians may be discussed by ambassadors of EU member states on 17 November.

Poroshenko earlier expressed hope that the EU would cancel visas for Ukrainians before the EU-Ukraine summit in Brussels on 24 November.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said that the EU's further delays in waiving visas for Ukrainians are inadmissible.

The main obstacle to the cancellation of visas for Ukrainians and Georgians is the blocked negotiations on the EU adoption of a mechanism to suspend visa waiver for third countries.

Ukraine: European Commission violates association deal by OPAL project

The European Commission's decision to allow Gazprom to increase gas shipment through the OPAL pipeline bypassing Ukraine violates the EU-Ukraine association agreement, Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister **Olena Zerkal** said at a meeting with the head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, **Hugues Mingarelli**, on 9 November 2016.

She recalled that the agreement obliged the parties to consider the mutual potential and capacity of their energy infrastructure and coordinate efforts on ensuring secure energy supplies.

Ukraine joins European Code of Social Security

On 10 November 2016, Deputy Prime Minister **Pavlo Rozenko** in Strasbourg signed the act on Ukraine's subscription to the European Code of Social Security.

The code fixes a series of standards which parties undertake to include in their social security systems.

Ukraine, Slovenia agree to resume air communication

Ukrainian President **Petro Poroshenko** and Slovenian President **Borut Pahor** have announced at a briefing that the two countries will resume direct air communication between Kyiv and Ljubljana.

Poroshenko paid an official visit to Slovenia on 8 November. Apart from Pahor, he also met Slovenian Prime Minister **Miro Cerar** and the speaker of the National Assembly, **Milan Brglez**.

UKRAINE-USA

Ukrainian president congratulates Trump on election

Ukrainian President **Petro Poroshenko** has congratulated **Donald Trump** on his election as US president. He expressed his greetings during a meeting with US ambassador **Marie Yovanovitch**.

The head of state expressed hope that the new US administration would support Ukrainians in their fight against the Russian aggression and in holding reforms.

Poroshenko welcomed the re-election of the Senate Ukraine Caucus. He expects it to facilitate effective cooperation with the US Congress.

Ukraine's ambassador to Ukraine, **Valeriy Chalyy**, suggested that with Trump in office, the bill on lethal arms supplies to Ukraine could be adopted faster.

In the course of his election campaign, Trump said that he did not care whether Ukraine was to join NATO, insisting that the war in Donbas was a problem of Europe, not the USA.

Ukrainian government approves draft agreement with USA on FATCA

On 9 November 2016, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a draft agreement with the US government to improve the implementation of tax rules and apply the provisions of the US foreign account tax compliance act (FATCA).

Under the FATCA, all foreign financial institutions are obliged to disclose information about funds on accounts of US taxpayers and companies affiliated with them to the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and act as tax agents.

UKRAINE-CHINA

China offers Ukraine free trade zone

China has initiated a free trade zone with Ukraine, its ambassador **Du Wei** has said.

Together with the Silk Route project, it is expected to facilitate Chinese investment in Ukraine.

Ukraine's trade representative **Natalya Mykolska** said that the decision on a free trade zone with China would be taken after Ukraine adopts an export support strategy.

UKRAINE-BELARUS

Ukrainian, Belarusian presidents discuss plane incident

Ukrainian President **Petro Poroshenko** on 10 November had a telephone conversation with his Belarusian counterpart **Alyaksandr Lukashenka**, during which the sides discussed the two countries' relations.

Among other things, the two presidents raised the question concerning the situation with a Belavia flight, which has recently been forced to return to Kyiv by a flight controller on the demand of the Security Service of Ukraine. As was reported by the Belarusian president's administration, Poroshenko apologised to Lukashenka over the forced return of a Belarusian plane to a Kyiv airport and the threats to scramble fighter jets reportedly used by the flight controller.

Martirosyan filed a lawsuit against the SBU.

5. DOMESTIC POLITICAL

President dismisses Saakashvili as Odesa Region governor

Ukrainian President **Petro Poroshenko** on 9 November dismissed **Mikheil Saakashvili** from the post of the head of the Odesa regional state administration and relieved him of the duties of non-staff presidential aide.

Earlier on the same day, the government approved the resignation of the Odesa Region governor.

In an interview with the Levyy Bereg with **Sonya Koshkina** talk show, Saakashvili said that after his resignation he was going to confront the old political system in Ukraine. However, he noted that his fight would target not the president personally, but the old political elites headed by Poroshenko. The politician also announced plans to create a political force that would seek early parliamentary elections.

Later, he said that he planned to create a new broad political force called "Platform of New Forces".

On 7 November, Saakashvili tendered resignation, accusing Poroshenko of backing corrupt officials.

On 14 November, the head of the Odesa customs, **Yuliya Marushevska**, who is considered a member of Saakashvili's team, also tendered her resignation.

National Police chief Dekanoidze tenders resignation

The chief of the National Police of Ukraine, **Khatia Dekanoidze**, announced her decision to leave the post on 14 November.

She recalled that during her one-year tenure the police held assessment tests of police officers, completed the creation of the patrol police and developed a system of transparent competitions to hire investigators, detectives and local police officers. At the same time, Dekanoidze acknowledged that she was unable

to eliminate corruption in the police.

Dekanoidze was appointed head of the National Police of Ukraine in November 2015.

Before coming to Ukraine, she worked as the principal of the Police Academy of Georgia's Interior Ministry, as well as Georgia's education and science minister.

Anti-corruption agency presents procedure for checking officials' assets

The National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (NAPC) has presented the procedure for monitoring whether officials' standards of living comply with their e-declarations.

The agency will monitor whether e-declarations are filled in an accurate and timely manner, and will exercise logical and arithmetic control.

At the same time, the NAPC has no procedure for checking declared amounts of cash because the agency does not have such authorities under the law, the Zerkalo Nedeli weekly reported.

After the presentation, a revised draft will be sent to the Justice Ministry for registration.

Meanwhile, the IMF welcomed the launch of the e-declaration system in Ukraine, noting that there is a need for further decisive actions to combat corruption, including the establishment of new institutions and sending of respective cases to courts. Also, the IMF said that they saw some inconsistency in declarations of some Ukrainian top officials.

Ukraine starts competition to appoint Supreme Court judges

The High Judicial Qualifications Commission has announced a competition for the posts of 120 judges of the newly created Supreme Court. Documents from applicants will be accepted from 17 November to 9 December. The winners will be named in March 2017.

It should be noted that the National Anti-Corruption Bureau will evaluate whether candidates for the new Supreme Court demonstrate any corruption risks.

Changes to the constitution concerning justice reform and a new law on the judicial system came into effect on 30 September. According to the legislation, the new Supreme Court will replace high specialised courts. All 200 judges of the Supreme Court will be elected via a competition.

Anti-corruption bureau searches MP's flat in party's secret ledger case

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) on 11 November conducted a search in a flat of a co-chairman of the political executive committee of the Opposition Bloc party, **Oleksandr Kasyanyuk**, under criminal proceedings concerning the "black ledger" of the Party of Regions.

It should be recalled that in May the former deputy head of the Security Service of

Ukraine, **Viktor Trepak**, handed over to the NABU documents confirming illegal cash payments by the Party of Regions to a number of former and incumbent high-ranking officials. According to Trepak, the total amount of bribes paid from the party's "black accounts" was 2bn dollars.

Parliament committee to review motion against opposition MP

The parliamentary committee on procedural and work organisation issues on 16 November will consider the motion submitted by Prosecutor-General **Yuriy Lutsenko** requesting criminal proceedings against MP **Vadym Novinskiy** of the Opposition Bloc faction.

Parliament received the motion from the Prosecutor-General's Office concerning proceedings against Novinskiy on 4 November.

On the same day, the MP flew to Greece using his aircraft. After four days, the MP returned to Ukraine.

Novinskiy is among those (along with former President **Viktor Yanukovych**) suspected of exerting pressure on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for the purpose of removing deceased Metropolitan **Volodymyr** from the post. In particular, he is charged with depriving Volodymyr's personal assistant **Oleksandr Drabynko** of liberty. In addition, according to the Prosecutor-General's Office, the MP in September-December 2013 was complicit in committing a "crime against the will, honour and dignity of a person, as well as in a crime related to official activities".

Court keeps bank head in custody

The Kyiv Court of Appeals has upheld prolonging the arrest of the former board chairman of Mykhaylovskyy bank, **Ihor Doroshenko**, who is suspected of misappropriating 870m hryvnias (33.46m dollars), until 7 December. Doroshenko has an option to be released on a bail of 137.8m hryvnias (5.3m dollars).

According to estimates by the investigators, some 2.3bn hryvnias (88.46m dollars) had been stolen from Mykhaylovskyy before it was declared bankrupt. The bank was shut down at the end of May.

6. MILITARY AND DEFENCE

International military drill starts in Ukraine

A two-week multinational command-post exercise called Maple Arch-2016 involving Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian and Canadian servicemen started at the Yavoriv training ground (Lviv Region) on 7 November.

Ukraine delivers fresh batch of tanks to Thailand

Ukraine has delivered the fourth batch of five Oplot tanks manufactured at the Kharkiv Malyshev plant to Thailand under a 200m-dollar contract signed in 2011. Thus, Ukraine has shipped 25 out of 49 tanks to Thailand.

Oplot was adopted for service by Ukraine's Armed Forces in May 2009. In 2011, a 200m-dollar contract was signed for the supply of 49 tanks to Thailand. In April 2012, the Malyshev plant began to perform the contract.

In October 2016, the head of the supervisory board of the state-run Ukroboronprom company, **Serhiy Pashynskyy**, said that Oplot tanks will be purchased under Ukraine's government defence order in 2017.

7. ECONOMY

Parliament inaction jeopardises fourth tranche from IMF – central bank

Ukraine risks not receiving the fourth tranche of 1.3bn dollars from the IMF under the EFF programme this year, National Bank head **Valeriya Hontareva** has said.

The IMF may refuse to provide the loan because of the Ukrainian parliament's reluctance to adopt a balanced budget, reform the pension system and carry out land reform, Hontareva said.

The IMF said that they will prepare a schedule for the allocation of a tranche to Ukraine based on the results of the IMF mission's visit to Kyiv, which started on 3 November.

Experts interviewed by Gorshenin Institute also said that there is an extremely low probability that Ukraine will receive a new loan tranche from the IMF this year. In particular, former Ukrainian Economy Minister **Viktor Suslov** believes that one of the reasons behind the IMF's likely refusal to disburse the tranche is the recent decisions by the Ukrainian government to increase the minimum wage. Although this question is not discussed publicly, such a step does not correspond to the agreements with the IMF. "I have great doubts that they will manage to somehow persuade the IMF mission to approve these decisions," the expert said. At the same time, according to Suslov, a fresh tranche will not arrive for a long time, just like it was a year ago, when the unified social security tax was lowered without the IMF's consent.

Fitch raises Ukraine's rating

Fitch Ratings, a global rating agency, has raised the long-term rating of Ukraine in foreign and national currencies to the level of 'B-' from 'CCC' with a stable outlook, according to the agency's website.

The agency noted that further delays in getting a new tranche from the IMF or the termination of the programme may lead to a decrease in Ukraine's rating. Also, more risks come from external shocks, which may weaken macroeconomic indicators of the country or its fiscal and external positions.

EIB to give Ukraine 200m euros for public transport

Ukraine and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have signed an agreement on the development of urban passenger transport in Ukrainian cities. Under this agreement, the EIB will provide a loan of 200m euros for up to 22 years and at 0.5 percent per annum.

In March, Ukraine received a 400m-euro loan from the EIB for projects in the banking sector and support of small and medium-sized businesses.

Inflation reaches 2.8 percent in October

Inflation in Ukraine reached 2.8 percent in October, according to the State Statistics Service.

Compared to October 2015, consumer prices increased by 12.4 percent last month.

Since the beginning of the year, inflation has reached 9.4 percent.

Cabinet raises alcohol price

The Cabinet of Ministers on 9 November decided to raise the minimum prices of alcohol products.

The minimum price of a 0.5-litre bottle of vodka increased from 54.9 hryvnyas (2.11 dollars) to 69.78 hryvnyas (2.68 dollars), while the minimum price of a bottle of wine (0.7 litre) grew from 27 hryvnyas (1.04 dollars) to 33 hryvnyas (1.27 dollars).

Cabinet introduces reference pricing for medicines

The Cabinet of Ministers on 9 November decided to introduce reference pricing for drugs in three categories: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and asthma.

Reference pricing is used to calculate basic prices of drugs by comparing prices of these drugs in other countries. The Ukrainian government will take into account prices in five countries: Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

This decision is aimed at reducing prices of medicines in Ukraine.

Cabinet to set up supervisory boards at 41 companies

The Cabinet of Ministers on 9 November approved the procedure for creating supervisory boards at state-owned enterprises in which the government owns over 50 percent and whose assets exceed 2bn hryvnyas (76.92m dollars) and net income was above 1.5bn hryvnyas (57.69m dollars) over the past year.

Forty-one state-owned companies, including the energy company Naftohaz Ukrayiny, fall under these criteria.

The government expects that Ukrzaliznytsya, Ukrposhta, Ukrhydroenerho, Ukrenerho and Boryspil airport will be the first to have their supervisory boards established in early 2017.

Formation of supervisory boards of state-owned enterprises is required by the law passed by the Ukrainian parliament in June 2016. It is part of the package agreed upon with the IMF.

On the same day, the cabinet changed the composition of the committee for the appointment of heads of particularly important enterprises under the Economy Ministry. In addition to the director of the EBRD office, the president of the Kyiv School of Economics, the business ombudsman, the regional manager of the International Finance Corporation and the regional director of the World Bank, the committee will include an IMF representative, the research director of the Centre for Economic Strategy, as well as a representative of the HR company involved in the selection process.

President approves restructuring of aircraft maker debt

President **Petro Poroshenko** on 9 November signed the law on restructuring the debt of the state-run Antonov enterprise, a successor of the Aviant aviation plant, over a period of 10 years. This debt is owed on Aviant's bonds issued against state guarantees in 2009. The document also writes off fines and penalties for the non-fulfilment of obligations on the debt.

The total amount of Antonov's debt is 1.27bn hryvnias (49.7m dollars), including the principal of 706m hryvnias (27.6m dollars) and 565.8m hryvnias (22.1m dollars) of accrued penalties.

Automobile output drops by 30 percent over 10 months

Production of motor vehicles in Ukraine in January-October declined by 29.7 percent compared to the same period in 2015, to 3,710 units, according to the Ukravtoprom association.

Output of passenger cars decreased by 14.2 percent to 3,020 units, including 2,960 units manufactured at the Eurocar plant (Transcarpathian Region), which produces Skoda cars.

The Zaporizhzhya automobile plant produced 63 units against 1,900 units in January-October 2015.

8. ENERGY

Government sets up new operator of gas transport system

The Cabinet of Ministers on 9 November created a new state-owned operator of the national gas transport system. The company called Main Gas Pipelines of Ukraine was created as part of the restructuring of the state-run energy company Naftohaz Ukrayiny.

The new entity is being created to separate gas transport business from Naftohaz's activities in accordance with the EU's Third Energy Package.

Naftohaz said that they may start transferring assets to the new entity after the Stockholm arbitration issues a decision in the gas dispute between Ukraine and Russia, which is expected next spring.

On the same day, 9 November, the government gave the green light for the reorganisation of Haz Ukrayiny, which sold gas to public utilities and industrial

consumers, by merging it with the parent company (Naftohaz).

OPIC approves project for filling Ukraine's gas storages

The USA's Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has approved the provision of 400m-dollar guarantees for filling Ukrainian underground gas storage facilities in the interests of the state-run energy company Naftohaz Ukrayiny.

Under the project, the investment bank Goldman Sachs will finance the filling of Ukrainian underground storage facilities against the OPIC's guarantees.

Ukraine imports coal worth 1.2bn dollars, oil products worth 2.5bn dollars

Ukraine in January-October imported 13.1m tonnes of coal worth 1.17bn dollars, which is 10.1 percent more than over the same period in 2015, the State Fiscal Service has reported. Some 63.5 percent of coal was imported from the Russian Federation, 14.4 percent from the USA, 6.2 percent from Australia and 15.8 percent from other countries.

At the same time, Ukraine imported 5.9m tonnes of petroleum products worth 2.52bn dollars, which is 23 percent less than over the same period in 2015. Some 57.5 percent of petroleum products was imported from Belarus, 14.5 percent from the Russian Federation, 11.1 percent from Lithuania and 16.9 percent from other countries.

Ukraine exports electricity worth 123m dollars over 10 months

Ukraine in January-October exported electricity worth 123.3m dollars, which is 1.5 percent less than over the same period in 2015, according to the State Fiscal Service.

Some 75.6 percent of electricity was exported to Hungary and 23.6 percent to Poland.

It is worth noting that before the end of the year Germany will give Ukraine a 30-year loan of 32.5m euros at 2 percent with a grace period of 10 years as part of the second stage of the project for increasing power transmission efficiency.

London court turns down suit against Ukrainian businessmen

London's High Court has rejected the lawsuit of Russia's Tatneft company against Ukrainian businessmen **Ihor Kolomoyskyy**, **Hennadiy Boholyubov** and **Oleksandr Yaroslavskyy**, Bloomberg has reported.

The court lifted the arrest imposed on the Ukrainian businessmen's assets worth 380m dollars as part of the Russian company's claim.

In April, Tatneft initiated legal proceedings in the UK against Kolomoyskyy and his partners in the case concerning oil supplies to the Kremenchuk oil refinery and demanded compensation of damages to the tune of 334m dollars.

Government allows production of nuclear fuel

The Cabinet of Ministers on 9 November approved a blueprint of the state target economic programme for the development of the nuclear industry for the period until 2020, which permits production of nuclear fuel in Ukraine.

The government expects to supply Ukrainian power plants with domestically produced nuclear fuel.

Enerhoatom's sales reach 3bn dollars over 10 months

The state-run Enerhoatom enterprise (the operator of Ukraine's nuclear power plants) in January-October increased income from electricity sales by 6.6 percent compared with the same period in 2015, to 33.89bn hryvnyas (1.31bn dollars), according to the company's financial statement. Enerhoatom's share in total electricity production in Ukraine amounted to 52.3 percent.

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