

Humanitarian aspect:

As of the morning of September 2, 2022, more than 1117 Ukrainian children are victims of full-scale armed aggression by the Russian Federation, Prosecutor General's Office reports. **The official number of children who have died is 380, and the number of those who have been wounded is more than 737. 228 children are considered missing, and 7,297 children have been deported to Russia. 5,247 children have been found.** However, the data is not conclusive since data collection continues in the areas of active hostilities, temporarily occupied areas, and liberated territories.

185,000 children who fled the war in Ukraine started the new school year in Polish schools, the Polish Minister of Education Przemysław Czarnek said. This is 7 thousand less than the [total] number of children who finished Polish schools last year. Estimated 700-800 thousand children from Ukraine of school age live in Poland. A lot of them take long-distance [online] lessons from Ukrainian schools.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has recorded **22 thousand instances of shelling since the beginning of the war. More than 24,000 civilian objects were hit,** Deputy Interior Minister Yevhen Yenin said. He stressed that the shelling hits civilian targets in 90% of cases. **The number of civilians who died during this war exceeds 7 thousand people.** And another 5.5 thousand civilians have been injured.

On the night of September 2, Russian troops destroyed the Lokomotiv sports complex named after H. Kirpa in **Kharkiv** with S-300 rocket strikes, the head of the Kharkiv Oblast Military Administration, Oleg Sinegubov, said. The swimming pool, and the modern boxing club, which was opened only in February of this year, were destroyed.

On September 1, the Russian forces killed 4 civilians in **Donetsk Oblast:** 2 in Toretsk, 1 in Velyka Novosilka and 1 in Avdiivka. Another 10 people were injured, the head of the Donetsk Oblast Military Administration, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said.

On the night of September 2, Russian troops shelled the Nikopol district of **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast** from "Grad" MLRS, the Head of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Military Administration Valentyn Reznichenko said. A 56-year-old man was wounded in the Chervonogrihorivska community. The shelling also hit the local lyceum, cars, gas pumps, and power lines. Currently, more than 2,000 people remain without electricity and almost 5,000 without water.

On September 1, more than 100 Russian shells landed in **Sumy Oblast.** The Russian troops used barrel artillery, mortars, and MLRS, Dmytro Zhivytskyi, head of Sumy Oblast Military Administration, said. Several civilian objects were damaged. There were no victims.

A forest ranger vehicle of the Narodytsky special forest farm in **Zhytomyr Oblast** hit a mine, killing one person and wounding another.

Over the past day, police officers have launched 16 criminal investigations into the war crimes committed by the Russian army against civilians in **Kherson Oblast**, the department of communication of the Kherson Oblast police reported. The crimes include shelling of populated areas, collaborative activities, theft and appropriation of the property of both citizens and large enterprises.

Ukraine conducted another **exchange of prisoners in Donetsk Oblast**. As a result, 14 military personnel, including an officer and a medic, returned home, Coordination Center for the Prisoners of War Issues reported.

The **restoration of infrastructure in the de-occupied territories continues**, Deputy Head of the Office of the President Kyrylo Tymoshenko said. 554 private houses, 48 high-rise buildings, 24 schools, 20 housing and communal services objects, 14 administrative buildings, 11 healthcare institutions, 10 kindergartens, 9 cultural institutions, 3 institutions of higher education have been restored in Zhytomyr Oblast. 738 private houses, 272 high-rise buildings, 34 schools, 31 kindergartens, 19 healthcare institutions, 10 housing and communal services facilities, 1 institution of higher education and 1 administrative building have been restored in Chernihiv Oblast.

Occupied territories

The Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets said that Russia would most likely let the UN and ICRC representatives to Olenivka, Donetsk Oblast (where on June 29, a large number of Ukrainian POWs had been killed) only after it [manages] to remove all evidence of the crime. He said neither mission had been allowed to visit the site and stressed that Russia was failing to comply with its obligations to let the international organizations check on the conditions of the Ukrainian POWs. Lubinets said that there is no doubt about what happened in Olenivka. "According to the analysis of the photo and video materials [from airspace], both Ukrainian and international military experts came to approximately the same conclusion: it was a pre-planned, in fact, public execution of Ukrainian servicemen from "Azov". Lubinets said that the international mechanisms of POW protection do not work in the current Russian war [on Ukraine] since ICRC records that it was not allowed to visit [the site] and nothing happens afterwards.

According to a preliminary assessment, the losses from explosions at Russian military facilities in the Saki and Dzhankoy districts of the occupied Crimea comprise 700 million rubles. The number was made public by the de facto head of the occupying Crimean administration Serhiy Aksyonov who said that this was the amount he had asked the Russian government to compensate the Crimea.

Operational situation

It is the 191st day of the strategic air-ground offensive operation of the Russian Armed Forces against Ukraine (in the official terminology of the Russian Federation – "operation to protect Donbas"). The enemy is concentrating its efforts on establishing full control over the territory of Donetsk Oblasts, maintaining the temporarily captured areas of the Kherson Oblast and parts of the Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya, and Mykolaiv Oblasts, and restoring the combat capability of its units that have suffered losses. Russian forces continue to carry out air and missile attacks on civilian objects on the territory of Ukraine.

The Russian military continues to deploy individual units of the Western Military District in the border areas of the Russian Bryansk and Kursk Oblasts. The Russian forces used mortars and barrel artillery to shell the areas around Pushkari, Khrinivka, Senkivka in Chernihiv Oblast and Sukhodil, Nova Sloboda and Novovasyivka in Sumy Oblast.

Units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus continue strengthening the protection of the Brest and Gomel Oblast section of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border. The threat of Russian missile and air strikes from the territory and airspace of the Republic of Belarus persists.

To replenish ammunition stocks, the Russian military continues to use the combined storage depot of missiles, ammunition, and explosive materials in Toropets (Tver Oblast, Russia). According to acquired data, up to 4,870 tons of ammunition have been dispatched from the depot mentioned above. In addition, one hundred seventy-four railroad cars with ammunition with a total weight of 5,735 tons are planned to be delivered from the Far Eastern and Central Federal Districts of the Russian Federation to the districts of Belgorod and Rostov Oblasts bordering Ukraine and AR Crimea before September 10.

Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to attack Russian targets. Thus, the Russian fuel and lubricant depot in the village of Novoosynivka, Kharkiv Oblast, was destroyed by the effective fire inflicted by the Ukrainian Defense Forces on the night of August 31 to September 1. The number of destroyed equipment and personnel is being finalized.

The Russian military concentration on the former automobile repair plant in Tavriysk, Kherson Oblast, was destroyed on August 30 as a result of fire damage. The Russian losses amounted to more than 20 units of weapons and military equipment. The manpower losses are being finalized.

The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low.

Kharkiv direction

- *Zolochiv-Balakleya section: approximate length of combat line - 147 km, number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 10-12, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 13.3 km;*
- *Deployed enemy BTGs: 26th, 153rd and 197th tank regiments, 245th motorized rifle regiment of the 47th tank division, 6th and 239th tank regiments, 228th motorized rifle regiment of the 90th tank division, 1st motorized rifle regiment, 1st tank regiment of the 2nd motorized rifle division, 25th and 138th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 6th Combined Arms Army, 27th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Tank Army, 275th and 280th motorized rifle regiments,*

11th tank regiment of the 18th motorized rifle division of the 11 Army Corps, 7th motorized rifle regiment of the 11th Army Corps, 80th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 14th Army Corps, 2nd and 45th separate SOF brigades of the Airborne Forces, 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR, PMCs

The Russian military fired barrel and rocket artillery and tanks at Udy, Ruski Tyshki, Cherkaski Tyshki, Pytomnyk, Velyki Prohody, Stary Saltiv, Petrivka, Peremoha, Dementiivka, Pryshyb. For this purpose, it used the Western Grouping of Forces of up to 19 BTGs from the 6th and 20th Combined Arms Armies, the 1st Tank Army, the 11th Army Corps of the Coastal Forces of the Baltic Fleet of the Western Military District, the 14th Army Corps of the Coastal Forces of the Northern Fleet, military units of the 1st and 2nd Army Corpses of the 8th Combined Arms Army of the Southern Military District. The Russian forces carried out airstrikes in the areas of Shestakove (with a pair of Mi-8s), Bayrak (with a pair of Mi-8s), Ruski Tyshki (with a pair of Mi-8s) and Vesele (with a pair of Mi-8s). To identify the position of the Ukrainian Defense Forces and adjust the artillery fire, the enemy used UAVs around Dementiivka, Kalynove, and Nove.

The Russian military deployed the "Zoopark-1" radar in the area of Borshchivka to identify the firing positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces artillery.

The enemy deployed elements of the "Pole-21" radio suppression system to protect objects from missile strikes and the Defense Forces' UAVs in the Kupyansk-Vuzlovy area.

Kramatorsk direction

- *Balakleya - Siversk section: approximate length of the combat line - 184 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17-20, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.6 km;*
- *252nd and 752nd motorized rifle regiments of the 3rd motorized rifle division, 1st, 13th and 12th tank regiments, 423rd motorized rifle regiment of the 4th tank division, 201st military base, 15th, 21st, 30th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Combined Arms Army, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 3rd and 14th separate SOF brigades, 2nd and 4th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Army Corps, 7th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps, PMCs*

The Russian forces shelled the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces with the barrel, jet artillery and tanks in the Dolyna, Krasnopillya, Brazhkivka, and Dibrivne areas. They conducted UAV reconnaissance in the Dibrivne, Kurulki, Nova Dmytrivka, Bohorodychne, Hryhorivka, Donetsk, Verkhnyokamianske, Ivano-Daryivka, Rozdolivka, and Vesele areas. The Russian forces carried out an airstrike in the Verkhokamyanske area (with Ka-52).

The enemy is expected to continue to fire on the Ukrainian Defense Forces to exhaust them, prevent a counter-offensive, and try to resume the offensive in the Slovyansk direction.

In the next 3-4 days, the enemy will continue its attempts to advance deep into the town of Soledar and will maintain a high density of artillery fire in the area of Spirne by means of the "Wagner" PMC assault groups.

Donetsk direction

- *Siversk - Maryinka section: approximate length of the combat line - 235 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 13-15, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 17 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 68th and 163rd tank regiments, 102nd and 103rd motorized rifle regiments of the 150th motorized rifle division, 80th tank regiment of the 90th tank division, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 31st separate airborne assault brigade, 61st separate marines brigade of the Joint Strategic Command "Northern Fleet", 336th separate marines brigade, 24th separate SOF brigade, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 15th, and 100th separate motorized rifle brigades, 9th and 11th separate motorized rifle regiment of the 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, 6th motorized rifle regiment of the 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR, PMCs*

The enemy conducts combat operations along the lines of Vasylivka, Vyshneve, Oleksandrivka, Novoselivka Druga, Novobakhmutivka, Zaitseve, Gladosove, Semyhirya, Kodema, Pokrovske by means of a part of the Joint Grouping of Forces in cooperation with the grouping of forces "Center" with up to 61 BTGs from the 150th motorized rifle division of the 8th Combined Arms Army, the 58th Combined Arms Army, the Black Sea Fleet, the Caspian Flotilla, formations and units of the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Southern Military District, the 2nd and 41st Combined Armies, the 90th tank division of the Central Military District, the 5th, 29th, and 36th Combined Armies, 68th Army Corps of the Eastern Military District, Pacific, Northern, and Baltic Fleets, and the Airborne forces. To identify the position of Ukrainian troops and adjust artillery fire, the Russian forces used UAVs, particularly the Orlan-10 type.

The Russian forces deployed elements of the "Pole-21" radio suppression system in the areas around Krynychna and Staromlynivka to protect objects from missile attacks and UAVs of the Ukrainian Defense Forces.

The Russian military carried out shelling from mortars, barrel and rocket artillery, and tanks in the areas of Sukha Balka, Yuryivka, Bakhmutske, Mayorsk, Kodema, Zaitseve, Soledar, Bakhmut, Yakovlivka, Bilohorivka, Krasnohorivka, Avdiivka, Vesele, Opytne, Vodyane, Tonenke, Pervomaiske, Karlivka. They carried out airstrikes in the districts of Zaitseve, Vesela Dolyna, Soledar, Bakhmut, and Yakovlivka.

The Russian units of the 6th separate motorized rifle regiment of the 2nd Army Corps attacked in the directions of Pokrovske, Bakhmutske, Vesela Dolyna, and Bakhmut. PVC "Wagner" attacked in the directions of Klynove, Vesela Dolyna, Semihirya, and Zaitseve. The 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps attacked in the direction of Zaitseve and Mayorsk. The 1st separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps attacked in the direction of Spartak and Opytne. The 11th separate motorized rifle regiment and 100th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps attacked from the Pisky district at Pervomaiske and Nevelske. The enemy was defeated in all directions and retreated.

The enemy unsuccessfully conducted assaults by motorized rifle units, supported by tanks and mortars in the direction of Spartak, Avdiivka; Lozove, Pervomaiske; Novoselivka Druga, Krasnohorivka. Fighting continues in the areas of Vesele, Pervomaiske, Pisky, and Pervomaiske.

Zaporizhzhya direction

- *Maryinka – Vasylivka section: approximate length of the line of combat - 200 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 11.7 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 36th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 29th Combined Arms Army, 38th and 64th separate motorized rifle brigades, 69th separate cover brigade of the 35th Combined Arms Army, 5th separate tank brigade, 37 separate motorized rifle brigade of the 36th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 429th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 136th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 58 Combined Arms Army, 46th and 49th machine gun artillery regiments of the 18th machine gun artillery division of the 68th Army Corps, 39th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 68th Army Corps, 83th separate airborne assault brigade, 40th and 155th separate marines brigades, 22nd separate SOF brigade, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR, PMCs*

The Russian forces fired mortars, barrel and rocket artillery and tanks in the areas of Krasnohorivka, Novomykhailivka, Mykilske, Prechystivka, Velyka Novosilka, Bohoyavlenka, Novomayorsk, Neskuchne.

The enemy deployed elements of the "Pole-21" radio suppression system in the Melitopol area to protect objects from missile strikes and the Ukrainian UAVs.

In anticipation of the IAEA mission's arrival, on August 31, the Russian occupiers moved up to 200 units of weapons and military equipment from the territory of the Zaporizhzhya NPP to the city of Enerhodar. The weapons and equipment were subsequently moved to the territory of the AtomEnergoMash plant.

Kherson direction

- *Vasylivka–Nova Zburyivka and Stanislav section: approximate length of the battle line - 252 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 27, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.3 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 114th, 143rd and 394th motorized rifle regiments, 218th tank regiment of the 127th motorized rifle division of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 57th and 60th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division, 51st and 137th parachute airborne regiments of the 106th parachute airborne division, 7th military base of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 16th and 346th separate SOF brigades*

There is no change in the operational situation.

The "Antonivskiy automobile", "Antonivskiy railway", "Daryivskiy" bridges and the sluice bridge of the Kakhovka HPP remain unusable for the logistics of the enemy grouping. The enemy attempted to restore the sluice bridge of the Kakhovka HPP, covering the destroyed sections with concrete slabs. The enemy used previously arranged pontoon crossings and barges for the movements across the Dnipro and Ingulets rivers (in the Dariivka area).

In order to prevent the advance of the Ukrainian troops, the Russian military is regrouping its units in the Mykolaiv-Kryvy Rih direction and strengthening forward positions in the directions of a possible breakthrough with the units that were concentrated in the depth of battle formations and other directions. The enemy withdrew units that suffered losses to the Beryslav district for combat capability recovery.

The enemy's "Grad" MLRS and up to a howitzer artillery battalion are deployed in the Bilyaevka area to support the actions of the Russian units.

The enemy grouping's reserves (probably units of the 810th separate marines brigade from the Dzhankoy area) transfer is possible soon to deter the offensive of the Ukrainian Defense Forces.

For the timely transfer of forces and their logistical support, the Russian forces restore the damaged crossings (bridges) and build crossings across the Dnipro river. According to preliminary information, they restored the ferry crossing in the Raiske area, which was used to move about 50 units of ammunition in the direction of Kozatske.

The arrival of four S-300 anti-aircraft missiles, Pantsir-S1 Anti-aircraft missile and gun complex from the port of Skadovsk accompanied by the security unit were observed. It is possible that the Russian forces will deploy the anti-aircraft missiles to the launch positions, probably in the Zeleny Hai area, to launch missile strikes on civilian infrastructure in Mykolaiv and Mykolayiv Oblast.

The Russian military uses the port to store anti-aircraft missiles for the S-300/400 anti-aircraft complexes. It replenishes the stock of anti-aircraft missiles on the territory of the port. An echelon (five platforms) with missiles for the S-300 anti-aircraft system (25 missiles) arrived at the Kalanchak railway station.

The Russian forces made an anti-tank minefield (TM-62 mines) between Stepanvka, Kherson, and Zelenivka.

The enemy would likely try to use massive artillery to dislodge Ukrainian units from their positions in the Kryvy Rih and Mykolaiv directions and restore the lost position of its troops. Under favorable conditions, the Russian military will attack in the direction of Arkhangel'ske, Ivanivka; Vysokpilya, Potemkine; Zolota Balka, Osokorivka.

Kherson-Berislav bridgehead

- *Velyka Lepetikha – Oleksandrivka section: approximate length of the battle line – 250 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces – 22, the average width of the combat area of one BTG – 11.8 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 108th Air assault regiment, 171st separate airborne assault brigade of the 7th Air assault division, 4th military base of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 429th motorized rifle regiment of the 19th motorized rifle division, 33rd and 255th motorized rifle regiments of the 20th motorized rifle division, 34th and 205th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 224th, 237th and 239th Air assault regiments of the 76th Air assault division, 217th and 331 Air assault regiments of the 98th Air assault division, 126th separate coastal defense brigade, 127th separate ranger brigade, 11th separate airborne assault brigade, 10th separate SOF brigade, PMC*

Part of the enemy forces of the Joint Grouping with up to 30 BTGs from the 8th and 49th combined arms armies, the 22nd Army Corps, formations and units of the 1st Army Corps, 35th combined arms army of the Eastern Military District, and the Airborne forces hold the line of Oleksandrivka, Pravdyne, Blahodatne, Lyubomirivka, Snihurivka, along the Ingulets River, Davydiv Brid, Mala Oleksandrivka, Velyka Oleksandrivka, Olhyne, Visokopillya, Lyubymovka, Khreschenivka, and Zolota Balka.

In the course of hostilities, the units of the 83rd separate airborne assault brigade lost part of their positions on the northern outskirts of Novovoznesensk. They later tried to restore the lost position by attacking in the direction of Vysokopillya, Potemkine, but were defeated and driven back.

The Russian military fired with barrel, rocket artillery and tanks in the areas of Stepova Dolyna, Oleksandrivka, Posad-Pokrovske, Prybuzke, Novomykolaivka, Lyubomirivka, Novohryhorivka, Kyselivka, Pervomaiske, Kobzartsi, Partyzanske, Chervona Dolyna, Shyroke, Bereznehuvate, Velyke Artakove, Andriivka, Novoselivka, Shevchenkove, Olhyne, to the north-west of Novovoskresenske, Myrolyubivka, Lyubimivka and Petrivka. They carried out airstrikes on the positions of the Ukrainian troops in the areas of Lozove (with a pair of Su-35s), Sukhy Stavok (Su-24), Velyke Artakove (Su-25), Khreshchenivka (with a pair of Su-25s). In order to identify the position of the Ukrainian troops and adjust artillery fire, enemy used UAVs (17 sorties) in the areas of Kostromka, Pryshyb, Chervona Dolyna, Sukhy Stavok, Lyubomirivka, Novopetrivka, Bila Krynytsia, Shmidtove, Velyka Oleksandrivka, Blahodatne, Tsentralne, Lyubomirivka, Novodmytrivka, Bereznehuvate, Pershotravneve, and Pokrovske.

Azov-Black Sea Maritime Operational Area:

The forces of the Russian Black Sea Fleet continue to project force on the coast and the continental part of Ukraine and control the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The ultimate goal is to deprive Ukraine of access to the sea and connect unrecognized Transnistria with the Russian Federation by land through the coast of the Black and Azov seas.

The number of ships stationed in the Black Sea is 10 warships and boats. Three Kalibr cruise missile carriers, namely frigate "Admiral Essen" of project 1135.6, and two "Buyan-M" type

corvettes are in the southern part of Crimea, ready for a missile attack. Up to 24 Kalibr missiles are ready to launch [at Ukrainian territory].

Most large amphibious ships are in the ports of Novorossiysk and Sevastopol for restocking and scheduled repairs. There are no signs of the formation of an amphibious landing force to land on the southern coast of Ukraine.

One submarine of the 636.3 project is located in Sevastopol, and three are in Novorossiysk.

Russian aviation continues to fly from the Crimean airfields of Belbek and Hvardiyske over the northwestern part of the Black Sea. Over the past day, 12 Su-27, Su-30 and Su-24 aircraft from Belbek and Saki airfields were involved.

2 Russian ships (a corvette and a minesweeper) are on patrol in the Sea of Azov.

A caravan of six cargo ships left today, September 2, from the Odesa coast towards the Black Sea Straits. Since August 1, 74 ships with a cargo of 1.8 million tons of grain have left the ports of Odesa.

Yesterday, September 1, around 9:00 p.m., the 173-meter dry cargo ship "Lady Zehma" from Liberia ran aground and dropped anchor in Bebek Bay in the Bosphorus Strait. The ship's rudder failed on the way from Ukraine to Istanbul (Turkey). The vessel is carrying 3,300 tons of corn. Turkish coast guard teams, rescue tugs and boats were immediately dispatched to the scene. The rescue operation ended on the morning of September 2, when the ship was removed from the ground and towed to the pier. Traffic in the Bosphorus was temporarily suspended for the duration of the rescue operation.

Operational losses of the enemy from 24.02 to 02.09

Personnel - almost 48,700 people (+350);
Tanks – 2,009 (+12);
Armored combat vehicles – 4,366 (+21);
Artillery systems – 1,126 (+11);
Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) - 289 (+2);
Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 153 (0);
Vehicles and fuel tanks – 3,247 (+8);
Aircraft - 234 (0);
Helicopters – 204 (+1);
UAV operational and tactical level - 853 (+2);
Intercepted cruise missiles - 198 (+2);
Boats / ships - 15 (0).

Ukraine, general news

In the six months, Ukraine increased fuel imports 12 times, from 58.8 thousand tons of gasoline, diesel fuel and liquefied gas in March to 709.5 thousand tons in August, the press service of the Economy Ministry reports. First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy Yuliya Svyridenko noted that Ukraine has become critically dependent on imported petroleum products after Russia's attacks on the fuel infrastructure.

International diplomatic aspect

G7 is imposing a price cap on Russian oil export, the primary source of revenues that fuels aggressive wars abroad and repressions at home. The overall impact of sanctions and restrictions imposed since the beginning of Russian aggression against Ukraine was about 15%, thus making oil-related revenues (some 30-40% of the Kremlin's budget) even more critical for the regime's survival. The Western winddown on Russian oil imports caused a price surge to such a degree that Moscow has been making even more money disregarding smaller export volumes and huge discounts for its remaining customers.

"We confirm our joint political intention to finalize and implement a comprehensive prohibition of services which enable maritime transportation of Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products globally – the provision of such services would only be allowed if the oil and petroleum products are purchased at or below a price ("the price cap")," stated the G7. The Group of Seven decided to restrict Russia's revenues instead of hunting for its export volumes, which had been challenging given that China and India are not on the same page with the West on the assessments of the conflict and, thus, on sanctions.

This time it might work much better, because the price cap, coming into effect on December 5 2022, for crude oil and on February 5 2023, for petroleum products, technically means a prohibition on financial transactions (payments) and services, brokering, shipment, insurance and other essential services for any shipments of Russian [oil] that exceed the price cap. While companies might fear being sanctioned, the customers, including China and India, might find it attractive to buy oil even cheaper. They, indeed, may decide to donate extra-cap money, which would make no economic sense at all. However, there's no good reason for them to self-restrain from the advantage over Russia (India's primary excuse for increased purchases of Russian oil) or continue to support Russia's geopolitical adventurism the whole world suffers from. China wants Russia to stay as a disturbance factor for the West, but it's hardly in PRC's interest to offset Russia's losses on such a scale. Given the unprecedented character of the move, it's hard to predict whether the G7 strategy will turn out to be a success.

"Coincidentally", after the price cap announcement, the Nord Stream I pipeline turned out to be "at risk", according to Kremlin spokesman. He claimed that "there are no technical reserves, only one turbine is working." Fixing oil leaks in key engines is only possible in specialized workshops that Western sanctions had hindered, stated Gazprom. The European Commission's chief spokesperson didn't buy those arguments, saying that they confirmed Gazprom's "unreliability" as a supplier and that the decision to keep the pipeline closed was made under "fallacious pretences". Though Russia plays the energy card hard, it can hardly change the tide.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi told the journalists he saw everything he had asked to see. Rafael Grossi said that the physical integrity of the plant has been "violated, not once but several times", and this is "unacceptable in any way". The agreement to establish at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant a permanent presence of two IAEA experts that would be able to report on the development of the situation directly to the IAEA, avoiding narratives of the sides at war, was made.

However, in footage released by Russian TV, a Russian representative played the fool explaining that a remnant of a missile made a U-turn while already hit the ground. In such a way, he accused Ukraine of shelling the ZNPP contrary to the conventional wisdom that the missile's tail was pointing to Russia-occupied territory. The IAEA experts will be able to assess the state of the ZNPP, but in no way will they be able to clarify who is shelling the station. None of the photos or videos from the trip showed any presence of Russian militaries and their armaments and equipment. Without any doubt, the experts won't have permission from the Russian "administration" to see all sites of the ZNPP they might be interested in.

The Biden Administration asks Congress to include an \$11.7 billion assistance package for Ukraine in the 2023FY budget, Bloomberg reports. Out of the requested amount, \$4.5 billion would go for defense assistance and replenishment of the Pentagon's stockpiles and \$2.7 on defense and intelligence assistance, while the rest would go for the support of the Ukrainian government.

Russia, relevant news

Russian banks lost 1.5 trillion rubles, or 25 billion dollars, in the first half of 2022 as a result of the sanctions imposed by western countries against the Russian Federation due to the invasion of Ukraine, the Deputy Chairman of the Russian Central Bank Dmitry Tulin told the Russian RBC business news agency.

The support for the actions of the Russian Armed Forces in Ukraine stayed unchanged during the summer months: 46% "definitely support" the actions of the Russian armed forces, another 30% "rather support", and 17% of respondents do not support them, the results of the August 25-31 Levada Center show.

Up to 30% of Russian musicians either left the Russian Federation or stopped performing, the Russian publication Kommersant reported with reference to "MTS Entertainment", which manages major Russian ticket services. Also, according to "MTS Entertainment", the sale of concert tickets in the Russian Federation in January-August 2022 decreased by 56% compared to the same period of the pre-pandemic year 2019 (compared to 2021, the decrease was 23%).

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