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POLITICS & ECONOMY

- The World Bank has retained its forecast for Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2017 at 1.5%, the bank said.
- Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to switch to growth of 1% in 2017 despite the impact of sanctions, international rating agency Moody's said.

OIL & GAS

- Russian oil major Lukoil has not yet closed a deal to buy a retail network of gas filling stations in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, Lukoil CEO Vagit Alekperov. In June 2016, Lukoil First Vice President Vladimir Nekrasov said the company plans to use money received from sales of gasoline filling stations in Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic states to buy assets in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. In September, he said that the talks were still being held and Lukoil was satisfied with the price.

POWER & COAL

- Nuclear power corporation Rosatom has chosen Dutch firm Lagerwey as a partner for construction of wind power plants in Russia, Rusatom-International Network said. In 2016, Rosatom won a tender to build three wind power plants with a combined capacity of 610 megawatts in Russia. This accounts for around 17% of total capacity of wind power plants to be launched in the country by 2024.

TRANSPORT & AUTOMOBILE

- Daimler has not yet made a final decision to build a Mercedes-Benz car plant in Russia's Moscow Region, the company said. Earlier, Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov told reporters that MercedesBenz will start construction of a car plant in the Moscow Region in 2018.

CONSUMER GOODS & RETAIL

- Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has signed a document setting start to a system of electronic labels for medicines, he said. The prime minister said that the system is designed to allow any person to scan medicine packages with equipment to be placed in pharmacies or one's own smartphone. Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich said that the labeling system will be launched in a test mode for one year. Participation in the system will be voluntary for a year.

AGRO COMMODITIES

- Russia started instant coffee exports to Germany in August 2016 to become one of the top 10 suppliers beating Brazil and India, an official at the Russian Export Center (REC) told. The volumes are small at 100-150 tonnes per month, and they come mainly from the Krasnodar and Leningrad regions, where plants of the leading brands are located. Russia entered the Israeli market at the end of 2015 and in 2016 made it to the top five instant coffee suppliers to the country, losing only to the Republic of Korea and Viet-Nam.