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48 Years in the Making

Russia beat Spain on Sunday to enter the quarterfinals of the World Cup for the first time since 1970, in what players and commentators have already called "a miracle."

In the leadup to the tournament, many had written off the team's chances for success, pointing to a lack of star players and an inexperienced coach. This publication was among them.

Everything seemed to be going wrong at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium when Russia conceded an own goal in the 12th minute.

However, with grit and a solid defensive display, Russia clawed its way back into the match with a goal before halftime, dragging the game into overtime and a penalty shootout, while keeping one of the world's best attacking teams from scoring (themselves) for a full 120 minutes.

Russia went on to beat the Iberian side 4-3 on penalties, with goalkeeper Igor Akinfeyev saving two in dramatic fashion.

"As we say in Russian, anyone can be a god if he tries," Russia's coach Stanislav Cherchesov said before the match.

In a video address to fans Saturday, several key Russian players expressed their gratitude for the support and promised to give the match their all.

ed to give the match their al "Believe in us and we will bring you joy," midfielder Roman Zobnin said.

"Each one of us needs to die on the field," striker Artyom Dzyuba, who brought Russia back to 1-1 by scoring a penalty in the first half, said. "For 95 minutes, 100 minutes, however long it takes," he added.

Midfielder Denis Cheryshev, who has played in Spain for most of his life, promised that his teammates would give their all.

"We will have a hard time," he said. "They are excellent. But we have our assets and can also play. They are one of the best teams in the world but I think we can beat anyone."

He was right.

'I'm Scared I'll Die Working'

BY EVAN GERSHKOVICH 🔰 @EVANGERSHKOVICH

TVER — It was raining so heavily on Sunday afternoon that the clutch of umbrellas gathered in central Tver did little to prevent those huddled under them from being soaked through.

Still, at a main square in the small town some 180 kilometers northwest of Moscow, nearly 200 people weathered the summer shower to protest against their government's plan to raise the pension age.

"I don't think I'll make it to the new retirement age," said Vasily, a 50-year-old engineer, who declined to give his last name. "I want to travel and see some of the world before I die. Now I'm scared I'll die working."

Set at 60 for men and 55 for women under Josef Stalin, economists have long been urging for the age to be raised. But officials have also known that doing so could set off a firestorm. Indeed, the last

time major changes were made, in 2005 — when a host of benefits were converted to cash payments — protests erupted en masse. Back then, President Vladimir Putin promised the age would not be raised so long as he was president.

So on the eve of the World Cup, on June 14, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announced a rise in the ages, from 60 to 65 for men by 2028 and 55 to 63 for women by 2034. The authorities hoped, it

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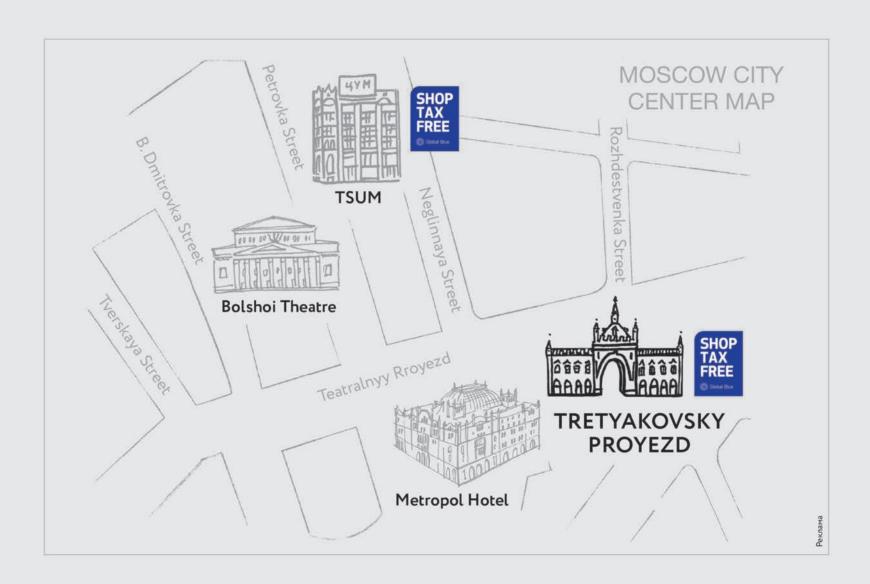




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The amend-

ments were

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na Yarovaya.

Russia's 'Big Brother' Law Enters Into Force

Controversial anti-terror legislation requiring Russian telecom companies to store users' communications entered into force on Sunday, leaving providers scrambling to implement the measure.

The new data storage law forces mobile and internet companies to log the text messages, phone conversations and chat activity of customers for $\ensuremath{\operatorname{six}}$ months and to provide them to security services in the case of a court order as part of a package of reforms known as the "Yarovaya laws.

The deadline for mobile phone operators to begin collecting data was set for July 1, while internet communications are required to be logged starting

Signed by President Vladimir Putin in July 2016, the legislation has been widely criticized by activists, who called it "Russia's 'Big Brother' Law" andwarned the measure would give law enforcement more scope for scooping on political activists.

According to Artyom Kozlyuk, the director of the Roskomsvoboda internet rights group, the legislation is unconstitutional and opens the door to mass data leaks

"I am certain that sooner or later these databases will be hacked or leaked and the data sold on the black market," he told The Moscow Times.

"Our conversations and calls will be stored as kompromat," he added, using the Russian term for



Meanwhile, the country's top telecom companies have said that they were struggling to comply with the July 1 deadline to implement the data storage requirements, saying that it may take years before they have the technical capacity to do so.

The general director of mobile provider Megafon, Sergei Soldatenkov, told the RBC media outlet on Sunday that it could take up to five years for his company to prepare for the new rules.

Andrei Soldatov, a security services expert, told The Moscow Times the measures had less to do with snooping on individual users than bringing the internet under the authorities' control.

"This is just another phase in the intimidation and milking of online businesses," he said in written comments



PROTESTS

Continued from Page 1

seemed, that the festive football atmosphere would dampen the impact of the bad news.

It doesn't appear to have worked. Nearly 2.6 million people have since signed an online petition against the decision, and Putin, whose fourth term only just got underway, has seen a steep fall in his approval rating: Over the course of a single week in June, it dropped from 72 to 63 percent, according to the state-funded VTsIOM pollster.

Calls for protests have come from the full political spectrum. They include the Communist Party, which has additionally called for a referendum, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of responsible for the pension reforms and opposition politician Alexei Navalny, among others.

Many of those protests were scheduled this past weekend, from Vladivostok in the Far East, to Omsk in Siberia – where a reported 4,500 people attended - to Tver. Here, the protest was organized by Open Russia, a political movement founded by exiled oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky. It was also supported by Navalny's volunteers.

The main goal of the protest, said Artyom Vazhenkov, an Open Russia representative, was to see Medvedev fired. To that end, organizers started a petition and made World Cup-themed T-shirts that read: "A Red Card for Medvedev."

Even though the protest movement is only starting to gain steam, the divides between the

different parties involved – which include those funded, supported or co-opted by the Kremlin itself - are already on display.

Vazhenkov said that he had written to the Communist Party, which is planning its own protest in Tver, so that they could also participate, but he didn't get a response.

"It's because they're part of the plan," argued Andrei Prokudin, the 27-year-old coordinator of Navalny's volunteers in Tver

"First Putin hides behind Medvedev, then he gets the fake opposition to organize some protests so people feel like they have a voice," Prokudin said. "Soon, he'll make the reforms less harsh so people think he's actually the good guy," he added. "You'll see."

With about two dozen police officers looking on, locals gathered at the square took turns explaining why they were against the reforms. They also discussed what action they should take. Some signed Open Russia's petitions, and others sporadically chanted: "Medvedev should resign" and "Russia without Putin."

Young people, too, were worried, though they were years away from leaving the workforce. "Our government doesn't act in our interests," said Vitaly, 16, explaining why he'd come to the protest. "We have no prospects for a future here."

Organizers were pleased that so many people had turned up, despite heavy rain. "There are more people here today than on May 5," said Navalny volunteer Dima Boronov, 27, referring to the protests in advance of Putin's inauguration.

Whether the protests can bring change though, is up in the air. "Today is definitely an important moment," said political analyst Gleb Pavlovsky. "But we need to see if this unhappiness becomes a trend."

He pointed to mass protests last summer against planned demolitions of apartment buildings as part of an urban renewal project. "That was a big protest movement, but it faded after about a month," said Pavlovsky. "We'll have to see whether these protests can maintain their

On Sunday, the energy faded quickly. After about an hour, those who had gathered headed

"I'm soaked through and couldn't hear a thing over the sound of the rain," said Elena, 51. "But at least I signed that petition."

OPINION

The top priority is that

Putin's ratings do not suffer

and that he is not seen as

responsible.

By Andrei Kolesnikov



Who Can Protest Pensions Louder?

ussian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is taking on the Kremlin once again. But this time, he has competition.

The anti-corruption blogger isn't the only opposition force trying to rally protests against the government's highly contentious decision to raise the pension age. As paradoxical as it might sound his main opponent is the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, which is controlled by the same authorities who are implementing the unpopular move.

Anywhere else, this might be considered political schizophrenia. But not in Russia. Here, when launching an unpopular policy (more than 80 percent of respondents to recent polls are against the changes to the pensions system), the state is prepared to temper its original plans depending on how disgruntled people are. The Russian authorities have roused the otherwise dormant trade unions to lead the protest that will allow them to gauge dissent.

For the government, the number one priority is that President Vladimir Putin's ratings do not suffer and that he does not have to take responsibility for any of this. What seems most likely is that he will enter the fray last of all, and meet the people halfway by softening the current plan.

Raising the retirement age to 65 from 60 for men by 2028, and to 63 from 55 for women by 2034, is not, incidentally, even really a reform. It is merely

an attempt to bring pensions in line with the demographic trend of an aging population (not to mention the fact that no other country with comparable levels of income has such a low retirement age). It also reflects a desire to save some state money.

The problem is that in order to live happily long beyond the retirement age - a great age by Russian standards – you have to be healthy. This is not something which older Russians are known for. On average, people live just

over 10 years after retiring, according to various estimates. And to work longer, people need education and the opportunity to switch

professions. But there is no tradition in Russia of lifelong learning. Despite the low official unemployment rate, many Russians have difficulty finding a job once they are over the age of 45-50. Not to mention that it was these same authorities who canceled the real

pension reform they had begun — to transition from a distributive system to a funded one — having supposedly frozen those funds. But actually they had sunk them into annexing Crimea.

Russians' outrage over the proposals has of course been seized upon by politicians (including parliamentary deputies, who will feign well-managed discontent), opposition parties and trade unions (which sociologists have found to be extremely unpopular) and opposition activists.

There is no way Navalny would pass up an opportunity like this. He is barred from appearing on state media and he cannot take part in elections because of a hotly contested criminal conviction. Like any politician, he is using any chance he gets.

The question is only whether he will become the leader of the protests or just an element of them. While a majority of Russians have been angered by the move, far from all of them are Navalny supporters.

It would actually have made more sense for Navalny to protest against the government's other proposal, increasing VAT, since that measure will hit economically active Russians, including entrepreneurs and consumers. To pro test that proposal would have made it possible to attract a younger and better-educated section of the population, which largely tends to trust Navalny. But the politician probably reasons that that would narrow his protest audi-

The crux of the matter is not even the actual content of the reforms, but the fact that any initiative that issues from the state is met with distrust. Yes, most people support Putin — as a symbol of greatness synonymous with the Russian flag – but that does not increase the level of trust in the state. Russians believe their politicians will swindle them at every opportunity.

It is this utter lack of trust in the state that Navalny is looking to exploit. Ultimately, as an opposition figurehead, he has far more right to do so than the under-the-thumb trade unions and parties. They are merely feigning pro-

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Crowds gathered to protest the pension age.

WORLD CUP The Moscow Times July 2 – 3, 2018

Make Some Noise!

Of the 32 nations represented at the World Cup, Mexicans and Brazilians have been singled out as the most raucous fans, according to Moscow's deputy mayor for transport, Maxim Kiskutov.

"The loudest fans are Mexicans and Brazilians," he told Interfax on Friday.

"This was noted by the volunteers and the drivers of shuttle buses. Fans from these two countries begin readying their vocal chords in transport before the game and after their teams win, their voices get even louder," he added.

With Brazil and Mexico ready to face off in the round of 16 in St. Petersburg on Tuesday, local residents can be sure that they'll hear all about it late into the night.



Volunteers claim Mexico fans are the loudest.

No More Drinking

The open-air drinking party in Russia will end as soon as the World Cup comes to a close, a blogger was told by police officers in Moscow.

In an encounter filmed and shared on Twitter, a Russian blogger was told by the police that locals will no longer be able to drink after the tournament, which has seen law enforcement officials turn a blind eye to violations of the public drinking ban.

In a video widely shared on social media, the blogger is filmed with a beer in hand asking police officers on Moscow's famous Nikolskaya Ulitsa: "When the World Cup ends, will it be possible to continue drinking beer outside?"

"Are you Russian?" they ask, before adding: "If you are, then you won't be able to.'

Novgorod Confusion

Two Argentinian fans who mistakenly traveled to Veliky Novgorod for a match against Croatia, instead of host city Nizhny Novgorod – nearly 1,000 kilometers away -reportedly had their travel plans saved by President Vladimir Putin

Ernam and Ektor told the Komsomolskava Pravda tabloid last week that they were contacted by officials in Veliky Novgorod after their travel mishap was publicized on social media. The officials reportedly gave them tickets to Argentina's next game against Nigeria in St. Petersburg last Tuesday.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov was cited by Interfax on Friday as saying that the reports that Putin had arranged for the Argentinians to get new tickets were "entirely true."



Maria and Alexander from Denmark



Mexicans showed up in central Moscow in their Day of the Dead best on Friday.

Abuse Against Russian Women Spirals

The head of Russia's World Cup organizing committee has said he is not aware of any incidents of inappropriate behavior towards Russian women by foreign fans, even as women are increasingly subject to online abuse from their countrymen for engaging with foreigners.

"I have not heard about any cases of sexual harassment. As far as I know there are no serious problems," Alexei Sorokin told journalists on Friday at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium, the Interfax news agency reported.

He added that "the authorities would take measures" if incidents crossed into the criminal sphere.

Sorokin's statement comes at a time when Russian women are being harassed online for fraternizing with foreign fans.

Russian social media users and several social media groups are sharing footage and shaming women whom they accuse of humiliating themselves or their country by hanging out with foreigners.

Many of those commenting on social media seem particularly incensed by a video showing a group of male Brazilian fans encouraging a Russian woman to say a slur for female genitalia

The video went viral several weeks ago and was widely condemned as being unfriendly since been fired by his employer considers to be inappropriate



Russian women are meeting foreigners, sparking abuse online.

in Brazil, media reported.

Meanwhile, online abuse has reached such levels that Russian blogger Yury Dud told Russian men to leave women alone in an opinion article last week.

The social media platform Vkontakte has issued a warning to its users against posting offensive content, a spokesperson for the social media company told the Vedomosti business daily last week.

It gave an especially strong warning to the administrators of one group page, which is named after the derogatory Brazilian term, and several other groups to moderate their

The page was created on June 19 and has more than 5.000 followers. It publishes footage and articles of what it

behavior by Russian women during the World Cup.

Comments beneath the posts label the women "Natashas" – a derogatory name for women considered loose - and accuse them of putting the country to shame

Some of the commenters even call for physical violence. Since the warning, some of the most threatening comments have been deleted, Vedomosti reported.

But a cursory glance at the page on Sunday showed there were still dozens of often racially-tinted derogatory comments.

"We don't humiliate women," one commenter said. "Just whores, who after five minutes go looking for a black penis, or Mexican or other Lati-They're scum."

FIFA Fines Russia

FIFA has fined World Cup host Russia 10,000 Swiss francs (\$10,100) after their fans displayed a discriminatory banner during the country's 3-0 World Cup loss to Uruguay.

According to the Associated Press, FIFA and monitoring experts said that the banner had included the number 88, a veiled reference to a neo-Nazi slogan beginning with H, the eighth letter of the alphabet.

FIFA also fined Serbia 20,000 Swiss francs for a "political and offensive banner" during their 2-0 loss to Brazil at Moscow's Spartak Stadium.

Serbia, who are out of the tournament, were fined for the display of a similar banner, referencing the World War II-era Chetnik nationalist group, earlier in the tournament.

Meanwhile, Mexico was fined 15,000 Swiss francs for crowd disturbance after their fans threw objects during their team's 3-0 loss to Sweden. (Includes reporting from Reuters.)

Sweden Ends Boycott

Swedish politicians will attend their national team's match against Switzerland on Tuesday in St. Petersburg, despite an earlier boycott of the World Cup over political tensions.

Stockholm previously said that officials would not visit the tournament in solidarity with London, which blamed Moscow for poisoning a Russian exspy in the United Kingdom earlier this year.

'We were consistent when we said that we would boycott the opening [games] in solidarity with Britain," Sweden's Foreign Minister, Margot Wallstrom, was cited as saying by the Aftonbladet newspaper

"But in this situation, we consider it important to support our team and we've taken the decision [to end the boycott] after consultations with such countries as Denmark and the United Kingdom," she added

Sweden qualified for the knockout rounds of the tournament after topping a group with Germany, Mexico and South Korea.

Fan Zone Closed

Moscow city authorities closed the Vorobyovy Gory Fan Zone unexpectedly on Saturday due to bad weather, leaving many fans unable to watch the dramatic first two matches of the round of 16.

The city's department of sport and tourism press service said that the decision to close the fan zone was taken to "ensure the safety of visitors in the face of adverse weather conditions."

Moscow experienced a heavy downpour on Saturday with wind speeds of up to 20 meters

The Vorobyovy Gory fan zone, located on the campus of Moscow State University, has a capacity of 25,000 fans at any given time and is open on all match days

Moscow's Gorky Park was also closed on Saturday due to the weather.



Watch your step: Rain forced fans indoors.



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No Major Incidents of Racism — Rights Group

International rights groups that sounded the alarm over a series of racist incidents at football matches in the months preceding the tournament have said that the World Cup experience in Russia has so far been generally positive.

"What I found in Russia is very different to what they told me before coming here," Alioune Ndiaye, a Senegalese computer scientist, said outside the stadium in the city of Samara.

"When I told people 'I am going to Russia' ... they said 'Oh, no, be careful' and stuff like that. But people in Russia are very welcoming, very kind and I don't see anything like racism here."

Racist incidents at matches between Russian Premier League clubs and at an international friendly earlier this year fueled concerns that players and fans could be subject to abuse.

CSKA Moscow fans chanted racist abuse at Arsenal's black players during a Europa League match in April in Moscow, while FIFA fined Russia one month before the World Cup for racist abuse at French players during the friendly in March.

But at the World Cup, fans and rights groups said the mood is different.

"We are all together with them," said Senegalese fan Bigue Thombane of Russian fans as she banged on a drum outside the stadium in Samara. "There is nothing. No racism at all. Truly."

Piara Powar, the head of the FARE network, an organization that monitors discrimination in European football, said it had not recorded a single significant incident involving Russian far-right hooligans or any racist incidents involving Russian fans.

"There has been nothing on a major scale,"
Powar said. "That was one of the concerns of



ti-discrimination officer Alexei Smertin (left) and former Reading player Jason Roberts

course coming into the tournament."

Alexei Smertin, the Russian Football Union's anti-discrimination inspector, said Russia had received positive feedback from visiting teams, fans and officials.

"Before the World Cup, there were a lot of fears on the part of foreign media, and we're glad that after arriving here all the negative stereotypes were destroyed," he said.

Powar, from FARE, said the absence of racist incidents did not come as a surprise given Russia's efforts to project a positive image to foreign guests.

"We know that during the World Cup period, the population sort of understand that they are in the spotlight," Powar said. "The world is watching."

NAKEYEVA / REUTERS

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And the crowd goes wild! Russian fans celebrate their team's win against Spain on Sunday.

Griezmann's Love Affair

Friday's World Cup quarterfinal against Uruguay will be a family affair for France forward Antoine Griezmann, who has strong ties with the nation.

Griezmann began his career with Real Sociedad's youth team in 2005 and moved up the ranks to play with the professional side in 2009 before joining Atletico Madrid in

In both clubs he linked up

with Uruguayan players, notably Carlos Bueno at Real Sociedad and Diego Godin at Atletico.

At Real Sociedad, he met Bueno and the pair formed a friendship which fired the club back into the Spanish top flight.

"He took me under his wing and taught me how to drink 'mate," said Griezmann, who is frequently seen holding a flask of the bitter tea loved by Argentinians and Uruguayans.

He has also been made an honorary member of Penarol, one of Uruguay's biggest clubs.

The friendship will count for little when France takes on Uruguay on Friday.

"I know everything about them," the Frenchman said. "We'll have to be focused on every little detail and defend well on set pieces." (Reuters) **OPINION**

By Marc Bennetts



Don't Blame Journos For Bad Russia News

am working on an article at the moment about allegations that an opposition figure in a World Cup host city was set up by the authorities, beaten by security service officers and then thrown in jail as revenge for his investigations into high-level corruption.

The details of the case are shocking, even by Russia's standards, but I am worried there is one thing missing from my story — I have not mentioned that the city is quite pleasant, in parts, in the summertime, and that it has some great restaurants and cafés. Oh, and a really lovely park.

After all, the failure to include such details in articles about Russia seems to be the — perhaps only — major complaint among many foreign football fans visiting Moscow and other World Cup host cities for the first time. As in: "It's nicer here than we thought it would be. Western journalists must have been lying to us all these years." Or words to those effect.

Let's break this down

First off, it is true that Western - OK - British media outlets went entirely overboard with their bloodcurdling tales of muscled, tattooed Russian football hooligans who were reportedly smacking their lips in anticipation of feasting on the bone marrow of English fans foolhardy enough to follow their team to the World Cup.

There are only so many articles you can write about the stunning transformation of Gorky park.

But aside from the fact that this was a narrative being pushed mainly by non-Russia-based journalists, lurid reports of hooligan violence were not — and are not — the only reason why the 2018 World Cup's host nation has suffered from such an image problem in recent years.

It is true, of course, that - for most people anyway - life in Russia is not one unrelenting cycle

of doom and misery. But it is the very nature of news reporting to dwell on tensions, disputes, abuses and allegations. And Russia provides plenty of opportunities for such reporting, from the high-level corruption that even the Kremlin has admitted is a major problem to accusations of torture by police and other security services, not to mention a growing crackdown on dissent.

Yes, reporters should try to offset this barrage of bad news with some positive stories, but there are, to be blunt, only so many articles you can write about the stunning transformation of Gorky Park. Or the rapidly improving quality of some Russian cheeses. Or the wonders of excellent Russian museums and galleries (which I have not heard too many football fans talk about, by the way).

Even Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, has a nice pizzeria or two. (My favorite, if it is still open, is on Putin Avenue.) But would you rather reporters wrote about the opportunity to tuck into Italian food, or human rights

What is it to be - articles on the reported mass torture of gay men by Chechen security forces, or a detailed examination of the quality of the mozzarella on pizza toppings?

We could, of course, write sentences like: "Russian security forces in St. Petersburg, where there is a vibrant café culture and some really nice streets for midnight strolls, have been accused of breaking the teeth of an anti-fascist activist in custody." But, well, that would just be silly.

Eagle-eyed readers will have noticed that it is not only Western journal ists in Russia who focus on bad news. Reports on mass shootings, human rights abuses, etc. in the United States, for example, also tend to avoid caveats referencing, say, the wonders of Central Park.

But since New York, London and Paris are more familiar to Western readers than Moscow, Samara or Kaliningrad, no one is under the impression that gun violence, acid attacks or Islamic terrorism are their sole defining characteristics. Indeed, Russian reports on Western countries also generally focus on negative stories rather than, for instance, London's art house cinemas, Indian restaurants and excellent second-hand vinyl shops.

Some advice: If you really want to know what life is like in a city you have never been to, pick up a travel guide book or two. After all, that is what they are for. And then read a newspaper to find out about all the other unpleasant stuff. Anyway, that's enough from me. I'm off to the park to relax. (Did I mention, by the way, that Moscow has some really nice ones?)

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 $China's \ own \ dismal \ ranking \ has \ not \ dampened \ the \ country's \ enthus iasm \ for \ this \ summer's \ World \ Cup.$

Playing a Numbers Game

Even though China isn't competing in the World Cup this summer, its football fans are flocking to the tournament in droves

BY LENA SMIRNOVA 🔰 @LEN_SMIRNOV

hey can't compete with Mexico's boisterous sombrero-clad fans or with Iceland supporters' Viking clap But even though China isn't playing in this year's World Cup, it is ahead in another category.

Some 60,000 Fan IDs have been issued to Chinese passport holders, Russia's Communications Ministry announced in late June, putting the country in second place behind Russia in the number of fans attending matches. To put it in perspective, number three on the list, the United States, was issued 39,000 Fan IDs.

Many of those football fans are also shelling

According to Shankai Sports International, an

exclusive agent in China selling World Cup tours, 10 percent of an estimated 40,000 tickets bought by Chinese fans this summer are in the VIP category.

"Chinese guests always try to get tickets to the most important matches and to buy the best seats," Yekaterina Chelik, head of the Moscow-based Turne tour company, told The Moscow Times ahead of the tournament.

A new trend rooted in history

According to FIFA, the precursor to the modern game that millions around the globe are glued to this month dates back to China in the second and third centuries.

The story goes that during the Han Dynasty, military personnel would kick a leather ball stuffed with feathers through an opening into a

small net. Hands were not allowed.

Despite this legacy, football in China has long played second fiddle to basketball. It is only in recent years that the people's game has been given a new shot in the arm. And now, the culture of watching football is spreading like a wildfire in China with fans gathering in restaurants and pubs to watch matches.

"If you pass by the Workers' Stadium [the main stadium in Beijing] when the matches are taking place, there are tents outside the stadium and people are selling souvenirs," Viktor Kipriyan-

Football has seen a large injection of state funding in infrastructure, planning and status in recent years.

ov, a Russian businessman who lives in Beijing, said. "It's something new. It's cool."

In part, this surge in popularity is the product of politics. President Xi Jinping is a huge football fan and the sport has seen a large injection of state funding in infrastructure, planning and status in recent years.

Foreign stars, including Argentina's Carlos Tevez and Ezequiel Lavezzi, Brazil's Oscar Ramirez and Nigeria's Odion Ighalo have all been lured to the Chinese Super League with huge paychecks. (Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo reportedly declined a \$105-million offer to play for a Chinese club.)

China's football efforts, however, have yet to pay off — despite being an Olympic powerhouse, the country places 75th in FIFA's ranking. But that has not dimmed the enthusiasm of Chinese fans flocking to Russian stadiums to see the best teams and players in the world battle for the golden trophy.

What makes this World Cup particularly enticing for Chinese fans is that, for the first time in 16 years, it is taking place in a country which borders China and with which it has cultural links.

Russia has long had a pull for the older generations in China, many of whom studied Russian history and language in school. "Growing up, my parents would read Russian novels, watch Soviet movies," said Ellen Zhan, an entrepreneur from Beijing. "It was their dream destination when they were teenagers."

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Some 1.5 million Chinese tourists visited Russia last year, according to the Chinese Embassy in Moscow. Most of the visitors are middle-aged and part of a tour group, the tour operator Chelik said

With the World Cup attracting a new demographic of Chinese tourists, those in the tourism industry hope to show that Russia can also be a destination for younger travelers, including those traveling by themselves or as part of small, informal groups rather than as part of organized tours

Feng, 29, who declined to give his last name, bought his ticket for Iran's match against Portugal in the World Cup group stage on Tabao, the Chinese version of eBay. In part, he said, the trip was a chance to see his favorite player, Cristiano Ronaldo, in action.

Feng said the simplified visa regime in place during the tournament had encouraged the other Chinese tourists he met in Saransk to pursue their dream of experiencing Russian history and culture.

One fan he met in Saransk told him he worshipped Mao and communism. "He came to Russia to follow in the footsteps of the 'great forefathers' of communism," Feng added.

His own ambitions were simpler, he said. "Apart from football, I am just fulfilling my own dream, which is to fill my passports with stamps."

Russian tour operators hope to see more tourists like Feng in the future. "We need to put all our efforts into drawing in young tourists," Chelik said. "We are trying to entice athletes, fans of extreme sports and tourists looking for unconventional vacations to travel to Russia."

Social media storm

Helping Chelik to achieve that aim is social media. WeChat and Weibo, the Chinese versions of Instagram, are popular ways for Chinese visitors to share pictures from their travels in Russia — and the World Cup is no exception.

Zhan, the entrepreneur, says that because everyone in China loves to share their holiday photos there will be a "significant spike" in interest in Russia even after Chinese tourists return home.

ZABİVAKA

Chinese travel agents hope the World Cup will boost tourism to Russia.

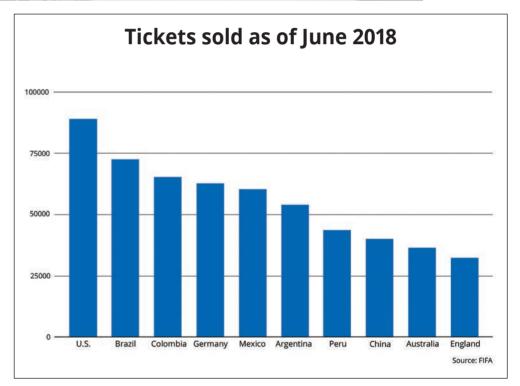
"We are confident that its effect will increase the tourism flow even in 2019," she told The Moscow Times

Boing Yuenlee, a football fan from Hong Kong, says the thousands of World Cup photos will be shared widely by rich Chinese fans as a way of showing off their status. "Nowadays, being at the World Cup is more like a VIP event rather than a sports competition," he told The Moscow Times. "It's like a carnival."

Xiaoqing-He contributed reporting.



President Xi Jinping is reportedly a huge fan of the sport (left). And yet China failed to qualify for this year's World Cup (right).





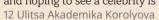
7. Ostankino Television Tower

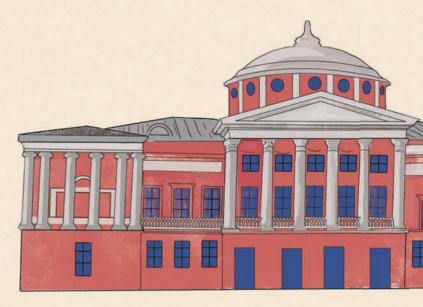
The structure that dominates this neighborhood is the enormous Ostankino television tower, which transmits dozens of television channels and radio stations. When it was completed in 1967, it was the tallest freestanding structure in the world at just over 540 meters high. A decade later it was superseded by the Canadian CN Tower and a few more since then, but it remains the tallest in all of Europe. It is famous for many reasons: for the cool colors that light it up at night, for a spectacular fire in 2000 that knocked out virtually all television and a lot of radio for several days, and for the 1960s space age style. Near the top is a restaurant called Sedmoye Nebo (Seventh Heaven) that slowly rotates, giving diners a full 360-degree view of the city over the course of dinner. The restaurant has not reclaimed its previous glory, but you can take an excursion up to the viewing platform. If heights scare you, take the monorail back to the VDNKh metro station and go home underground, as nature intended. 15 Ulitsa Akademika Korolyova



6. Ostankino TeleCenter

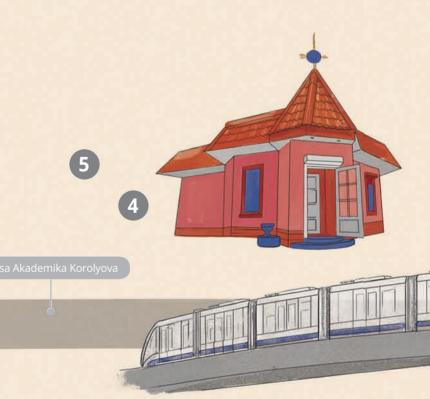
Beyond the Ostankino Pond by the church is a huge cement and glass building that is the heart of Russia's television industry. Built from 1964 to 1967, the Ostankino TeleCenter consists of several buildings for television and radio production and broadcast. Here Channel One, NTV and other channels produce and broadcast their shows, and another 200 or so companies use the facilities. This is where you come to be part of the audience for a talk show, or walk the miles of corridors to be made up and have a microphone attached to you if you're a guest on one of the shows. Reconstructed after the battles of the 1993 coup attempt, the center seems to have left that tragic chapter behind. No admittance without lots of clearance. But standing outside, gawking and hoping to see a celebrity is definitely allowed.





5. Ostankino Estate Museum

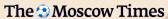
After you have happily gorged on donuts, cross 1st Ostankinskaya Ulitsa and look through the gates at the pink Ostankino Palace, covered with scaffolding as it undergoes major repairs. Built by Count Nikolai Sheremetev in 1797 after he grew bored with the family manse at Kuskovo-such a bore! - this estate was designed to be a summer theater palace. It was a kind of elaborate stage set for his guests, with ballrooms and reception areas and little nooks perfect for gossip and trysts. Inside this big theater nestles a little theater – the oldest extant wooden house theater in the world, with clever machines to make the sound of wind and rain, moveable columns and a floor that could cover the entire seating area and turn it into a ballroom while the guests sipped champagne. While work to save it is under way, stop in the Church of the Life-Giving Trinity, built in 1682, and gaze at the extraordinary iconostasis, miraculously preserved in place all these years. 5 1st Ostankinskaya Ulitsa



Around Ostankino and VDNKh

By Michele A. Berdy m.berdy@themoscowtimes.com | Illustration by Yelena Rasputina

A tour of the Ostankino-VDNKh neighborhood with science museums, rare architecture, the heart of Russian television and the city's best donuts



July 2 - 3, 2018



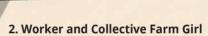




4. Ponchiki

Get off the monorail at the second stop (Ulitsa Akademika Korolyova) and continue to walk in the same direction until you reach Novomoskovskaya Ulitsa. Turn right and walk to the intersection with 1st Ostankinskaya Ulitsa. On the left you'll see a little pink building with a red roof and, possibly, a line in front. Actually, first you'll smell the divine scent of fried dough before you even see this neighborhood landmark. This is the best place for donuts, called ponchiki (пончики), in Moscow. The staff make the donuts with a "special recipe" and use equipment dating from the 1950s, when the place opened. The donuts are crisp on the outside, tender on the inside, sprinkled with powdered sugar and love. Buy and eat. You are welcome.

1 1st Ostankinskaya Ulitsa



After your short trip into outer space, walk past the main entrance to VDNKh Park and continue to the right toward the giant 70-meter-high statue of the Worker and Collective Farm Girl, marching majestically into the bright future. Made by Vera Mukhina for the 1937 International Exposition in Paris, the sculpture is one of the iconic symbols of the Soviet era. In the podium that holds it aloft is a newly opened museum dedicated to the monument and woman who made it. The airy and modernist space displays photographs, models of this and other sculptures and personal items of the artist.

123 Prospekt Mira

3. Moscow Monorail

Almost directly behind this grand monument is another one, this time to a mayor's vision. This is the Moscow Monorail, opened in 2004 with six stations. It isn't very long, and it's not very convenient. Locals call it Luzhkov's Folly after former Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov, who pushed through the project. But use your regular metro card to take a short ride. It does offer fine views of the park and Moscow, and it fits in with the 1960s vibe that dominates parts of this neighborhood.

Prodolny Proyezd and Ulitsa Sergeya Eisensteina

1. Cosmonautics Museum

When you exit the VDNKh metro station, head for the enormous 100-meter rocket flying off into space. This monument, built in 1964, celebrates Soviet spaceflight. Before entering the museum in its base, you might wander around the Alley of Cosmonauts under the rocket, where you can see busts of the first men and women in space and some of the scientists and dreamers who made spaceflight possible. Inside, the museum is largely dedicated to Yury Gagarin's pioneering flight into outer space, but with some exhibits about other spaceflights. Highlight: Belka and Strelka, the first dogs to successfully travel to space and return safely, are here, stuffed for posterity in their doggie space suits.

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main thoroughfare is called Prospekt Lenina, and streets named after Red Army generals, the divisions they commanded and the Soviet-era youth movement, the Komsomol, line the surrounding area. "The Motherland Is Calling," an 85-meter-tall sculpture that commemorates the Battle of Stalingrad, towers over the city and features prominently on the Volgograd region coat of arms.

While seeking to preserve the city's Soviet heritage, Volgograd's post-Soviet administration has attempted to provide a blueprint for future development by overseeing a number of ambitious construction projects. One example is the Volgograd Bridge, which took 13 years to build. Spanning over seven kilometers, it is among the longest in Russia and has had an eventful history. In 2010, it achieved fame as "the dancing bridge" after a video posted on YouTube showed the bridge swaying violently due to powerful gusts of wind.

Volgograd has also started to flex its muscles as an up-and-coming tourist destination for international and Russian travelers — aided by the influx of World Cup fans. Alongside its historic attractions, the city boasts a burgeoning ecotourism industry. Visitors can savor the Volga-Akhtuba floodplains, the Elton salt lake and the Don River, all within a few hours of the city.

World Cup visitors to Volgograd are attending matches in a city brimming with history. It touches everything in Volgograd, from athletic triumph in its old stadium to tsarist origins to a glorious and triumphant military victory that altered world history. As a part of the World Cup, Volgograd is continuing to make history.

This article is an updated version of an article from The Moscow Times archive.

This host city always remembers the glory of its past while looking towards the future

ike nine other World Cup host stadiums, Volgograd Arena was constructed specifically for the World Cup. Despite the shiny newness of the structure, which has an airy basket-weave design and cost \$280 million, the site is nonetheless full of history — much like the city of Volgograd itself. The old Central Stadium once stood on the same site, and was the setting for the legendary victory of Rotor Volgograd over Manchester United in the 1995 UE-FA World Cup. In 2014 a number of unexploded bombs from the Battle of Stalingrad were discovered in the grounds and had to be carefully re-

The city's name changed three time in over three centuries. Founded in 1589 during the regency of Boris Godunov, the fortress town of Tsaritsyn acted as the first line of defense on Russia's southeastern border. The first stone structure was built in 1664. Beginning in 1765, Catherine the Great encouraged foreign settlers to

relocate to Tsaritsyn, leading to the strong presence of the Volga German community. These settlers turned the area into a strong manufacturing hub, producing mustard, clothing and many other crafts goods. In 1925, the city was renamed Stalingrad to honor its role in the struggle against the Whites during the Russian Civil War. Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinization program inspired its rechristening as Volgograd in 1961.

Volgograd's history is marked by great sacrifice, resiliance and fortitude.

Famed for its dogged resistance against Hitler's invading forces under the former name Stalingrad, the city bore the brunt of the German onslaught between August 1942 and February 1943 and was awarded the title "Hero City" accordingly.

This historical episode remains sharp in not only Russian minds, but those of all people who were touched by World War II. English fans and diplomats made a point to honor the dead of Stalingrad with a ceremonial laying of flowers before their first World Cup match in the city.



Throughout the city, Volgograd commmemorates those who fought to defend their homeland.

Aside from its military significance, Volgograd has also served as an important industrial center and transport hub for more than a century. Shipyards, a tractor plant and a steel factory were all built here during the first Five-Year Plan. Since the completion of the Volga-Don canal in 1952, millions of tons of cargo have passed through the city every year

Today, Volgograd remains a bustling urban and economic center of the Southern Federal District. The city stretches 80 kilometers along the western bank of the Volga River, its historic heart flanked by sprawling suberbs, malls, cinema complexes and industrial sites to the north and south. The Volga Hydroelectric Station, one of the largest in Europe, lies just a short distance away.

But, despite its forward-looking ambitions and dynamic industrial sector, Volgograd is a city in which memories of former glories still loom large This is a place that strives to remember its past and celebrate its privileged position in the drive to industrialize and defend the motherland.

Wandering through the center, you are first struck by the abundance of street names and monuments recalling Soviet times. The city's







Numerous ruins remind locals and visitors about one of the most important battles in history.

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Some of Moscow's Best Irish and British Pubs

Mandy's Apothecary Irish Pub

This Apothecary may not offer pills and tinctures, but if you need a little draft to lift your spirits, Mandy's has just the thing. From Kilkenny and Guinness to Kilbeggan and Teeling Single Grain, all of Ireland's iconic labels are proudly on display at this central Moscow pub. What's more, they specialize in Irish whiskey-based cocktails you'd have a hard time finding anywhere else: Few can say no to the Hot Toddy, fragrant, rejuvenating and full of spices, or refuse to be treated to Mandy's signature Penicillin.

19 Kuznetsky Most. Metro Kuznetsky Most. mandysapothecary.com



Belfast

Living in Moscow, it's easy to get the impression that pubs begin and end in the city. Belfast is here to show you just how wrong you are. Channeling the boisterous, down-to-earth spirit of a rural Irish pub, this rustic joint with its rough wooden benches and weathered shelves has captured what pub culture is really all about. As you drink one of a dozen beers on tap at Belfast, you'll catch yourself singing along with the regulars when someone strikes up an Irish tune, and become part of the pub's warm community. 13 Sredny Ovchinnikovsky Pereulok, Bldg. 1. Metro Novokuznetskaya. belfast-pub.ru/indexe.html



Paddy's

If you want a bite to eat to chase your beer and whiskey, chances are a plate at Paddy's has your name on it. Located right in the city center, this classic Irish pub makes sure no one goes home hungry, offering guests a mouthwatering selection of dishes from American burgers to traditional Irish grub. And don't worry about missing the match: This summer, Paddy's has welcomed scores of excited fans with live broadcasts. You can get a pint to toast your favorite team or, better still, buy everyone a round when they score.

1/2 Lesnaya Ulitsa. Metro Belorusskaya. facebook.com/paddysmoscow



Union Jack Pub

Short of taking a plane to London, the Union Jack is the easiest way to visit a classic English pub. Offering true English stout, ale, porter, beer and single-malt whiskey, as well as an impressive array of snacks and sausages, this pub gives every Brit and Anglophile their heart's desire. Union Jack's cheery staff encourage an atmosphere of friendship and merriment, and since the pub's a little off the beaten track, the discerning locals that make up most of its clientele embrace whoever walks through the door as one of their own. 13 Ulitsa Maroseika. Metro Kitai-Gorod. u-jack.ru



Tap & Barrel Pub

History buffs will get a kick out of Tap & Barrel, an Irish pub that opened right on the spot of an infamous Soviet watering hole that housed the first beer-vending machines in the U.S.S.R. The vast basement space is covered by a 15th

century ceiling, and the menu ranges from nachos and cheese plates to authentic Guinness pie. Before you worry that it's all glitz and no substance, check out the beer menu: With over 30 craft and mainstream varieties on tap at all times, you'll leave Tap & Barrel wanting to come back for more.

13 Ulitsa Bolshaya Dmitrovka. Metro Chekhovskaya, Okhotny Ryad. tbpub.ru/#about



St. Peters & St. Anton

At this jovial English pub in the heart of Moscow, the World Cup isn't a once-in-four-years event-it's a state of mind. With one room overflowing with football scarves, jerseys and photos of star players, fans will feel right at home bringing their own FIFA souvenirs. Famous for its rich variety of cask ales, from Cream Stout to Plum Porter, St. Peters & St. Anton also caters to cider fans. Whether you want to have a taste of organic flavored cider like Christmas or cherry, or simply settle down with Varvar's craft, the pub won't leave you hanging.

2 Nikitsky Pereulok. Metro Okhotny Ryad. realpub.ru

A brand new undertaking by established Moscow restaurateurs, Pig & Rose, which had its opening earlier this summer, is the daring new word on the Moscow pub scene. Set up as a real oldtimey English pub, complete with quirky name, distinctive brand and dimly lit interior, the menu

of Pig & Rose hints at something more. Combining universally beloved classics like fish & chips and shepherd's pie with more original inventions, the place aims to capture your heart and your imagination – and the mile-long drinks list will only help.

15 Trubnaya Ulitsa. Metro Trubnaya. pigandrose.me

O'Donoghue's

A mirror image of O'Donoghue's in Dublin, this Moscow pub is no mere imitation: Every detail of the decor arrived straight from Ireland, and every item on the menu celebrates that Irish heritage. Bookshelves and knick-knacks line the walls of the dining area and add to the homey atmosphere, perfect if you want to unwind and catch a game with a bunch of friends. For the real connoisseurs, O'Donoghue's has a special section devoted to whiskey tasting. Just be careful: There are more than 50 labels, and it's easy to get carried away.

29 Pyatnitskaya Ulitsa. Metro Novokuznetskaya. odpub.ru



Katie O'Shea's

When Steve Conway came to Moscow, he brought a piece of Ireland with him. For decades, savvy Muscovites and Irish expats alike have flocked to his pub Katie O'Shea's for a pint of Guinness and one of Katie's signature Irish fish pies. With vintage Dublin posters and signs on the walls and a list of drinks the length of your arm, the atmospheric pub follows the best traditions of Conway's birthplace. Add to that O'Shea's special interest in whiskeys—not only Irish, but Welsh and Scotch as well-and you're sure to have a jolly evening.

Two locations katieosheas.ru/en/index.html

Robert Burns

Not for nothing did this standout Scottish pub's namesake poet call whiskey "aqua-vitae": Every day thirsty Muscovites and homesick Scots make their way to Robert Burns for rows upon rows of top-notch Scotch and home-style Scottish dishes. Better still, this pub shines as a veggie favorite: providing coal-roast potatoes and hummus with tomato salad, warm bread and spicy butter alongside the usual haggis and Scottish pies. Robert Burns proves once and for all that classic pubs can keep up with the times.

1a Blagoveshchensky Pereulok. Metro Mayakovskaya. facebook.com/robertburns.pub



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Sobchak on Sobchak

By Andrei Muchnik | 🔰 @amuchnik

Ksenia Sobchak tries to clear her father's name in a new documentary





Ksenia Sobchak (right) approached the documentary about her father (left) from the perspective of both a journalist and a daughter.

senia Sobchak, a recent presidential candidate, television host and socialite, along with director Vera Krichevskaya – known for her documentary on Boris Nemtsov, "The Man Who Was Too Free" — have released a new film about Sobchak's father, Anatoly Sobchak, a controversial liberal politician and mayor of St. Petersburg who died in 2000. The Russian title is "Delo Sobchaka" ("Sobchak's Case"), but the English version is simply "The Case."

Ksenia Sobchak co-wrote the script and did most of the interviews, including those with her mother, Federation Council member Lyudmila Narusova and President Vladimir Putin. In the film, she calls her father "Daddy" and Narusova "Mom," which lends a level of intimacy but also reminds the viewer of the film's lack of complete impartiality.

Anatoly Sobchak rose to prominence in the final years of the Soviet Union when he was elected as an independent candidate to the Congress of People's Deputies. After the U.S.S.R. collapsed, Sobchak chaired the Constitutional Assembly and is considered one of the fathers of the 1993 Constitution. He served as the mayor of St. Petersburg from 1991 to 1996, when he lost the election to his deputy, Vladimir Yakovlev. His other deputy at the time was a young Putin. Much of the movie is devoted to

This is a movie by a daughter about her father, with all of the benefits and drawbacks of that family tie.

the minutiae of these elections.

Ksenia Sobchak's main objective is to rehabilitate her father, who was accused of embezzling state funds. The charges first appeared during the mayoral election campaign of 1996 and didn't go away after Sobchak lost. Anatoly Sobchak's deteriorating health and his premature death in 2000 are usually blamed on these scandals.

A star witness

This is where the biggest star of the film steps in: the Russian president. At a recent press conference, Ksenia Sobchak said that she reached out to Putin through her mother as soon as she and Krichevskaya started working on the movie. The interview was anything but a certainty. "Vera and I had two versions of the script: with and without Putin's interview, as we were not sure we'd get it."

She coyly said that although "we all live in a very Putin-centric world, that doesn't apply to our movie. Putin is not the main character in our movie. The main character is time, both the present and the past and the connection between them." She noted that there are just six minutes of Putin in the movie and he is just one of the witnesses. "There's no black and white in this story," Krichevskaya said at the same press conference. "You simply can't label any of the characters 'good' or 'bad.' It's life as it is, which is a lot more complex."

Ksenia Sobchak was surprised by two specif-

ic revelations during her interview with Putin, she said. In November 1997, Anatoly Sobchak was about to be arrested and charged with embezzlement. Putin, in his interview, describes how he helped Sobchak to get on a plane to Paris to avoid arrest.

"The first was that he told us the story at all [about helping Sobchak to escape abroad]. The only time Putin was asked about it, he avoided answering. I knew the story from my mother, but Putin never talked about it," she said. "The second thing, which is more important to me as a daughter rather than a journalist, is that for the first time in all the decades that have gone by, Putin calls Vladimir Yakovlev a traitor. It's very important. Putin has always avoided answering this question, even though he was asked many times."

The film, she said, is "about my father and about the anatomy of bullying. It's about how this injustice that occurred in St. Petersburg in the mid-1990s, as well as my father's mistakes, influenced all the Russian politics that came after. Throughout the movie we can see how Putin made his own personal conclusions about everything that happened. He realized that he had to do everything differently. He saw what happens when you lose debates on television, what happens when there is independent media, how oligarchs needed to be controlled and so on."

In the end, "The Case" is a movie made by a daughter about her father, with all the benefits and drawbacks of that family tie. But it also tells the important story of one of the first and last liberal democrats in Russia, as well as the humble roots of the current Russian president. It is a significant and thought-provoking film; and it is fascinating to watch the story unfold as you compare it to the reality of Russia in 2018.

"The Case" is now playing in Moscow theaters. An English-language version will be released in the fall.



Vladimir Putin was Anatoly Sobchak's deputy when Sobchak was mayor of St. Petersburg.

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Other Fashions, Other Times

By Anna Dolgova

An exhibition about student and subculture fashion trends during perestroika

n June 21, the "Youth Uniforms of Moscow" exhibition opened at the Museum of Moscow. The exhibition includes 17 installations made by contemporary artists trying to show how the Soviet subcultures of the past look today. It also features photographs by Igor Gavrilov of young people and youth movements in the last decades of the Soviet Union. According to the exhibition's director, Alyona Saprykina, this exhibition shows a lot about Moscow and its past, to



the benefit of both people living here and tourists visiting for the World Cup.

"From the perspective of the Soviet youth, everything that was happening at the end of the 20th century was very memorable and bright," Saprykina told guests during the opening of the exhibition. "Not only politics and our life have changed, but civilization itself has exploded."

The photographs and installations are dedicated to the youth subcultures that existed in Russia from the 1970s until the early 90s. Student subcultures and movements began making waves first in western Europe, largely culminating during student protests in France in 1968. But in Russia youth movements flourished and quickly grew much later, during the time of perestroika. As the repressions of the Soviet past began to slip away, the doors opened to a brighter future. It was a hopeful period with a general belief that the time for the democratization of society had finally come.

As a photographer during perestroika, Gavrilov focused on young people and their various subcultures. Visitors of the exhibit can see his photos of punks, rockers and bikers. One photo, entitled "I Will Recognize My Darling Through Her Shoes," shows a woman wearing biker shoes. Another, called "A Stylish Couple," shows the punk-rock hairstyles of two young people.

Gavrilov's photos also depict cultural events such as the first international competition for hairdressing, a bikers' congress, a May Day demonstration and the opening of the first McDonald's in Russia on Pushkin Square. Rock music very much conveyed the mood of Soviet youth during the period, and so we also see a photo from a Viktor Tsoi concert. There are also photos of the everyday life of the Soviet people

at the time: life in a communal apartment, for example, or a young family on a neglected playground in the 1970s.

"These photographs are not meant to mock their subjects. There is no need for it," Gavrilov said during the exhibition opening. "Photographers should love life, love themselves and the people that surround them, and take photos truthfully."

There are not many obvious connections between the photographs and their epoch and the contemporary items on display at the exhibition. Irina Korina is one of the artists who provided some of the installations. One is called "Swinging Shakespeare." Some scholars believe that Shakespeare was not one single poet and playwright, but a collective of writers whom we will never know. This installation suggests that anyone can get inside the head of Shakespeare and discover the truth about the poet.

Another work by Korina at the exhibition fo-

cuses on Leo Tolstoy and the distribution of flyers with the writer's challenge to the elite and to the Russian Orthodox Church.

Accessories are an important factor in the fashion styles among the photographs at the Museum of Moscow. Unique modern accessories are also on display, many of them made by the artist Daria Bulatova. There are items made from orange peels, cypress cones, cigarettes and clothespins — even earrings made out of headphones and nuts.

"There are really many things around us that can be used as accessories," Bulatova said. "It seems to me that not only gold and silver accessories should be valued. Simple objects also have their value."

The "Youth Uniforms of Moscow" exhibition runs through Aug. 20 in the Museum of Moscow, 2 Zubovsky Bulvar. Metro Park Kultury. mosmuseum.ru



The current exhibtion examines late Soviet rock, biker and punk fashion styles.



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By Galina Stolyarova

A playful and unusual estate hosts a series of summer festivals

he austere-looking Gatchina Palace is the most private and perhaps the most mysterious of all St. Petersburg's former imperial residences. Surrounded by an idyllic spacious English garden on the shore of the Silver Lake, the palace, with its 10 towers, looks like a combination of a medieval castle and a Russian estate. One of its owners, Tsar Alexander III, saw it as the perfect escape from the bustle and noise of the capital. He was so attracted to this place that he used every opportunity to visit and turned Gatchina Palace Estate into the principal imperial residence. He was nicknamed "The Hermit of Gatchina."

The history of the palace dates back to 1765, when Catherine the Great presented this plot of land to her favorite, Count Grigory Orlov, for a hunting lodge. The next year, the Italian architect Antonio Rinaldi began his work on the estate, which took 15 years to complete. There is still a living witness to Orlov's time at the palace, much loved by the public: a 230-year-old oak growing

on the Silver Lawn in front of the northern façade of the palace. After Orlov's death in 1784, the palace was granted to Tsar Paul I, who made it an official imperial residence after he succeeded to the throne in 1796.

The palace holds a remarkable collection of paintings, sculpture, engravings, decorative art works, rare books and hunting weapons, which once belonged to Gatchina's owners, starting with Orlov. The Paul I rooms, the Empress Maria Fyodorovna rooms and the Alexander III family members' rooms have been restored to their original glory. The Paul I Upper Throne room is one of the most sumptuous in the palace, designed by the Italian architect Vincenzo Brenna. Displayed in the Maria Fyodorovna Throne room are 59 paintings depicting landscapes or bucolic scenes, making it one of the most interesting halls in the palace. Other highlights include the Grecian Gallery, the Chesma Gallery and the State Bedchamber.

The palace owes much of its enigmatic feel to the 120-meter-long underground passage connecting the palace with the charming Echo shore of the Silver Lake. As popular legend has it, the ghost of Paul I is still attached to the tunnel. The passage was built during Orlov's time and was often used by Paul I, who fancied gags and intrigues. There is a secret door in the former Grand Bedroom on the second floor that provided access through a back staircase to the emperor's dressing room on the ground floor, and then to the basement, which was connected to the passage. Paul I adored using them to surprise his guests, disappearing and reappearing in various places in and outside the palace.

Grotto, famous for its acoustic qualities, on the

In 1799, Paul I built the Priory Palace for the knights of the Maltese Order, of which the Russian tsar was elected as the grand master. Designed by the architect Nikolai Lvov, it is the only rammed-earth building that has been preserved in Russia since the 18th century. The small and charming Priory Palace has become one of the symbols of Gatchina.

The surrounding park, designed by Charles Sparrow and John Bush, became one of the first landscape parks in Russia and is still one of the most beautiful in the country. White Lake, Silver Lake and Karpin Pond were some of the favorite fishing spots for the Romanov family on the outskirts of St. Petersburg. "When the Russian tsar is fishing, Europe can wait," Tsar Alexander III — "the hermit of Gatchina" — would say. Since Orlov's times Gatchina has also been called "The Hunting Capital of Russia," which is reflected in much of the palace's artworks.

The town of Gatchina was the scene of a number of important technical inventions. The first electric street lanterns in Russia were installed in Gatchina in 1881. In July 1882, the first telephone line in the country connected the Gatchina Palace with the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, and in 1900 the first monorail train in the Russian Empire opened here. In 1910, it was home to Russia's first military airport and first school for pilots

A member of the royal family last visited the palace in July 1915, when Empress Maria Fyodorovna came for a summer vacation. After the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, the palace was turned into a history museum. During World War II most of the artworks were moved from the palace in an



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The palace is a music and art festival haven.

effort to protect them. The palace was so badly damaged by the bombings that the authorities decided not to restore it as a museum and instead handed it over to a military school, and later to a research institution. It was not until 1976 that restoration works really began at the palace, which is now enjoying a full revival.

This summer the park continues to host some of the country's most popular festivals. The Night of Music Festival will be on July 7, featuring mainly classical music. The Operetta-Park Festival runs July 13-15. The annual Night of Light Festival at Gatchina will be on Aug. 10-11.

For more information about the place and upcoming festivals, visit gatchinapalace.ru



Gatchina's colorful and somewhat eccentric nature reflected the characters of its inhabitants.

July 2 − 3, 2018 WHAT'S ON The Moscow Times 15

Max Black or 62 Different Ways of Supporting the Head With an Elbow and a Hand

July 2-3

This collaboration with German director Heiner Goebbels titled "Max Black or 62 Different Ways of Supporting the Head With an Elbow and a Hand" became part of the Electrotheater's regular playbill after the Territory international festival. This performance explores how the path to scientific discovery is not always straightforward, based on the notebooks of several prominent scientists. An exceptional performance by Alexander Panteleyev is supported by pyrotechnics, industrial sounds and futuristic music.

Stanislavsky Electrotheater

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa. Metro Tverskaya. electrotheatre.com



Concert Hermeto Pascoal & Group

July 2

Hermeto Pascoal, a legendary Brazilian composer and multi-instrumentalist, will perform in Moscow for the first time as part of the Brazil Program at Powerhouse. Pascoal is in his eighties and claims to have composed over 10,000 songs, including collaborations with Miles Davis. Known as o Bruxo (the Sorcerer), Pascoal often makes music with unconventional objects.

Powerhouse

7/4 Goncharnaya Ulitsa. Metro Taganskaya. facebook.com/powerhousemoscow



Theater A Midsummer Night's Dream

July 3-6

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is the Gogol Center's production at the heart of the case against its embattled director Kirill Serebrennikov. He's been accused of embezzling funds earmarked for staging this Shakespearean comedy. Serebrennikov faithfully follows Shakespeare's plot, but transports the action to contemporary Russia: Some of the scenes take place in a therapist's office and at a high school

prom. There's also an immersive element to the production as the viewers follow the actors from one set to another.

The Gogol Center

8 Ulitsa Kazakova. Metro Kurskaya. en.gogolcenter.com



Theater Beethoven

July 2

"Beethoven" is one of last season's premieres at Praktika, an independent experimental theater. It's a one-man show, with actor Yury Mezhevich playing both the composer and other characters, including Mozart. Written by one of Russia's most prominent contemporary playwrights, Valery Pecheikin, "Beethoven" takes place in a fake "museum" devoted to the composer's life, but tries to "unmask" this pillar of classical music and show him as a real human being.

Praktika

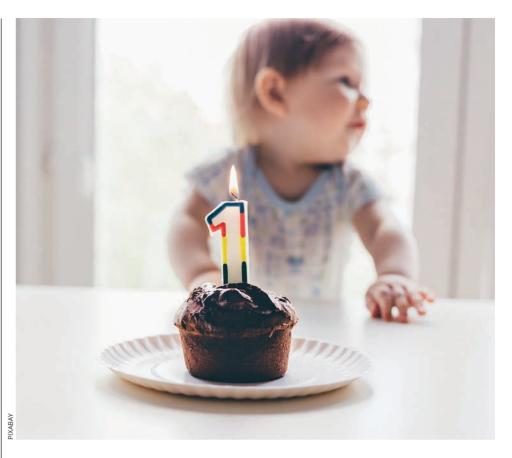
30 Bolshoi Kozikhinsky Pereulok. Metro Mayakovskaya.

Exhibition Rodchenko and Stepanova. Football

Through July 15

praktikatheatre.ru

This is a small exhibition that includes paintings, graphic artworks and photographs related to football and sports by the great Soviet



LIFEHACK

What's a Russian Name Day?

A name day is a fine old religious tradition, now mostly observed in the Orthodox Christian countries of Eastern Europe and Catholic countries in Latin and South America. In this tradition, everyone is named after a saint, each of whom has a feast day that is the person's name day. So, for example, if you are Tatiana, your name day is Jan. 25, the feast day of St. Tatiana.

In very religious homes, a name day will begin in church and end with a party. In extremely religious homes, the family will celebrate their name days and not their birthdays, with

gifts, cards and feasts.

In less religious homes, it is celebrated like a second birthday, also with food, partying and presents.

If you are invited to a name day celebration, don't worry about appearing suitably religious — it will be pretty obvious if you aren't. Bring flowers and something sweet. Follow the lead of the folks around you. Have fun but don't become drunk or rowdy. Except on Tatiana's Day, when a bit of rowdiness is sanctioned from on high.

avant-garde constructivist artists Alexander Rodchenko and Varvara Stepanova. Both were advocates of the cult of athleticism, with sport motives recurring in their works from the late 1920s until the early 1940s.

Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts

12 Ulitsa Volkhonka. Metro Kropotkinskaya. pushkinmuseum.art

Exhibition Proving Humanity

Through July 12

This new exhibition features works by six young Russian artists, winners of the art-and-science category in the third season of the

Vzlyot project. The artists each used technology to interpret how art and science relate to one another in the contemporary world. Anastasia Alyokhina examines how electronic devices will be used in people's internal organs in the future, while Yulia Glukhova's audiovisual installation allows viewers to create their own films using REM eye movements. Other installations include augmented realities and audiovisual performances. The exhibition is in the Yakovlev Yak-42 aircraft in VDNKh's Industry Square.

119 Prospekt Mira. Metro VDNKh. mos.ru/en



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