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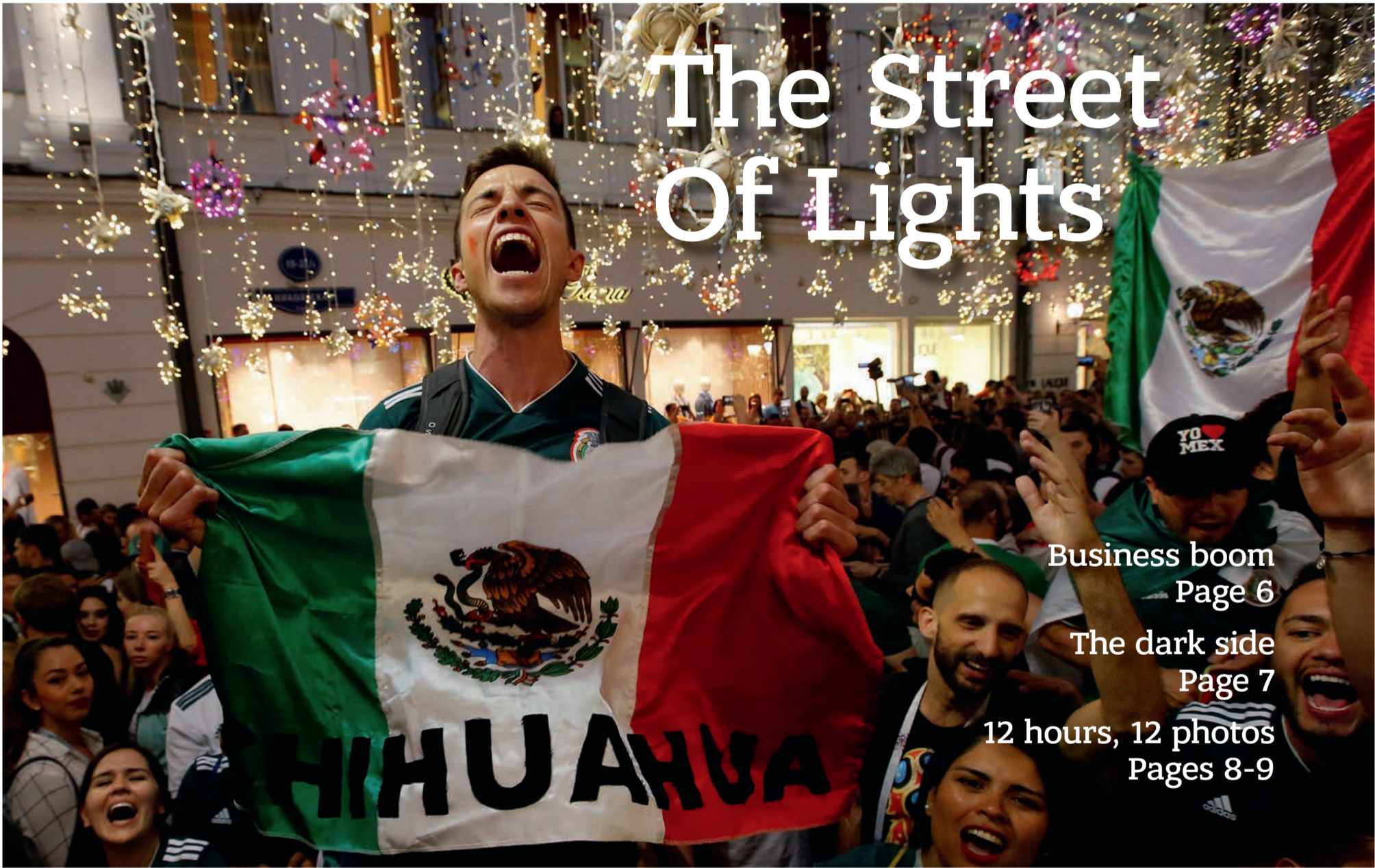
TheMoscow Times

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Russia Gets Wake-Up Call

After a dream start to the World Cup with two resounding victories, Russian fans are once again pessimistic about their team's chances in the next round after an ignominious 0-3 loss to Uruguay on Monday.

Many Russians called the result "a wake-up call."

"Today was the day that had to happen," head coach Stanislav Cherchesov said. "A slap in the face at the right time can be helpful."

Some Russian fans drily commented that they recognized their team again. "Greetings, team Russia, I missed you," one person tweeted.

Other social media users mocked Russian sports commentators' unwavering patriotic optimism during the match. "We've just conceded two goals and have a red card and the commentator says: Well, nothing terrible has happened yet. YOU'RE RIGHT, EVERYTHING IS JUST GREAT," one fan tweeted while watching the coverage on Match TV.

"Listening to [state television's] Channel One, you would think that we were leading by 3-0, playing like gods and the scoreboard was mistaken," someone else wrote.

Sports pundits are divided about Russia's chances in the next round of the competition, with many saying that the defeat exposed the team's flaws.

Others said the result "brought Russia out of the clouds" and gave the team a chance to make all of its mistakes in a game that still allowed it to progress to the next round.

Russia now faces Spain at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium on July 1 in the knockout stages of the tournament.

In an online poll on the popular Sports.ru news website, 69 percent predicted a loss. But, as one infinitely optimistic Channel One commentator suggested: "It's better to lose 0-3 once than 0-1 three times."

Terror Suspect Convicted
In Church Bombing Plot

A St. Petersburg court has handed a guilty verdict to a suspect for his alleged knowledge of a terrorist plot to bomb a church last year.


One of seven suspects, Shamil Omargadzhiyev was detained in December over a suspected plot to blow up the Kazan Cathedral in St. Petersburg. The Kremlin said at the time that a CIA tip-off helped thwart the attack and locate the suspects.


On Monday, the Pushkin District Court handed Omargadzhiyev a 2.5-year prison sentence and a fine of 50,000 rubles (\$800) for failing to disclose his knowledge of the plot, as well as for illegally storing a Kalashnikov firearm and ammunition.


The court said that Omargadzhiyev, who reportedly admitted his guilt, had discussed the plan to bomb the Kazan Cathedral with the plot's mastermind, alleged Islamic State (IS) supporter Yevgeny Yefimov, who has been placed in pre-trial custody until Aug. 18, according to the local Fontanka.ru news website.

Yefimov reportedly shared extremist videos with Omargadzhiyev and plotted to commit knife attacks with him and two other accomplices.

See TERROR, Page 3

Wednesday 27°C

Thursday 28°C

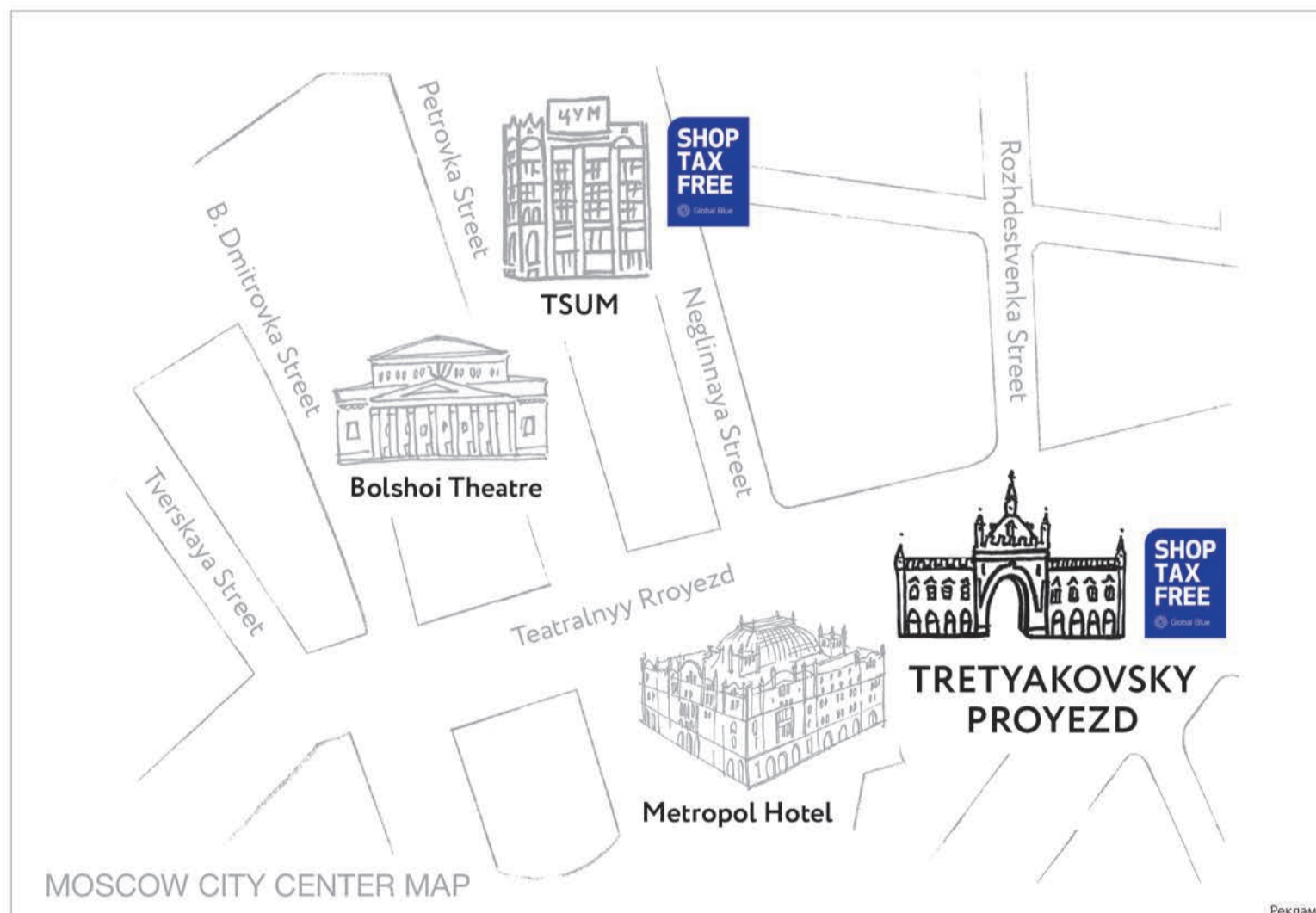
Friday 28°C

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Head of 'Troll Factory' Wants Mueller Dismissed

The Russian company accused of helping fund a propaganda operation to sway the 2016 presidential election in favor of U.S. President Donald Trump asked a federal judge on Monday to dismiss charges brought by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, saying he was unlawfully appointed.

Concord Management and Consulting LLC is one of three entities, along with 13 Russian individuals, indicted by Mueller's office in February in an alleged criminal and espionage conspiracy to boost Trump and disparage his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

The indictment said Concord is controlled by businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin, who U.S. officials have said has extensive ties to Russia's military and political elite. In Russia, he is widely known as "Putin's Cook," in a nod to his catering businesses.

Concord is alleged to have controlled funding, recommended personnel and overseen the activities of the propaganda campaign.

Concord is the only one of the defendants in the case to have formally responded to the charges in federal court. Earlier this year, it hired American lawyers to fight the indictment.

Under the Constitution's Appointments Clause, principal officers such as cabinet secretaries are appointed by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate while "inferior officers" may be appointed by courts or department heads if permitted by Congress.

Concord's lawyers say that Mueller qualifies as an "officer" and not a routine federal employee because of his vast prosecutorial authority. They say that no matter whether Mueller is deemed an "inferior" or "principal" officer, his appointment still violates the Constitution.



MIKHAIL DZHAMARIDZE

As a principal officer, they say, he should have been appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

But even if a court disagreed and ruled that Mueller was an inferior officer, they say, his hiring is still unlawful because Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein lacked "express and specific statutory authorization" from Congress. (Reuters)

Known as "Putin's Cook," Prigozhin (left) and Putin met in the 90s in St. Petersburg.

Another Year for Navalny

A Moscow court has extended Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's suspended sentence by another year, less than two weeks after the politician was released from prison for organizing anti-government protests.

Navalny was given a five-year suspended sentence in 2017 on embezzlement charges which critics say were politically motivated. The ruling barred his bid to run against President Vladimir Putin in the 2018 presidential election.

The court ruled to "extend Navalny's probation period until July 8, 2019," Simonovsky District Court judge Svetlana Tumanina was cited as saying by Interfax on Monday.

The Russian Federal Prison Service argued for the extension because, it said, the Kremlin critic

had violated the terms of his sentence by amassing administrative offenses.

Navalny has been charged several times in the past two years for violating public assembly laws by organizing mass anti-government protests. He most recently served a 30-day jail term, from which he was released earlier this month, for staging an unsanctioned protest.

Navalny, who said he would appeal the ruling with the Moscow City Court, tied the extension to upcoming protests against pension reform.

"I don't recognize this kind of 'court' and certainly won't carry out its decisions," he wrote on Instagram. He added that he had been watching the Russia-Uruguay game on a laptop in court as the verdict was handed down.

For decades, and especially under Putin, the authorities have nourished and legalized sexism.

TERROR

Continued from Page 1

A Federal Security Service (FSB) video released in December showed one suspect confessing, and operatives detaining another suspect at a shipping container that was supposedly used as an explosives lab. Explosives, assault weapons, ammunition and Islamic literature were also found in an FSB raid of an apartment.

Security officials said that the group was part of a sleeper cell being directed by Islamic State, a banned terrorist organization in Russia, from abroad. Officials said that the cell was using the encrypted Telegram messenger app, which has since been blocked in Russia.

Two other suspects are currently being tried in St. Petersburg, the city's court said.

The lawyer of a third suspect, Eliskhan Esmurziyev, has since alleged that his client was tortured to confess to a firearms possession charge.



PIXABAY

More than half of local cattle are unmarked.

Cow Ahead

Wandering cows have led to 400 car accidents in southern Russia's Astrakhan region in the past two years, the Astrakhan24 site reported.

As many as 40 people have been injured and 23 have died.

A regional Duma committee has said it will send a proposal to change federal legislation to address the issue of unmarked cattle in the region.



OPINION

By Ilya Nuzov

Russians Don't Need Your Sex Advice

On the eve of the World Cup in Russia, the Chairwoman of the Family, Women and Children Affairs Committee of the State Duma, Tamara Pletnyova, warned Russian women not to have sex with foreign fans, encouraging them to stick to their own kind instead.

Alluding to the suffering of children who might be born to single mothers, she also remarked that it might nevertheless be acceptable "if the couples are of the same race."

Rather than focus on the obviously xenophobic nature of Pletnyova's remarks — they warrant a separate discussion — I would like to salute the lawmaker for unwittingly highlighting a systemic problem in Russia. One that might actually lead Russian women to seek companionship from non-Russian men.

For decades, and especially under President Vladimir Putin, the Russian authorities have nourished and legalized sexism. This means a return to patriarchal norms and diminished opportunities and social protections for women. Statements from public officials constantly reinforce these policies.

In 2013, Pletnyova's predecessor Yelena Mizulina put forward a "State Conception of Russian Federation's policy on family through 2025" which, among other things, proposed a tax on divorce, restrictions on the right to abortion and a greater role for the Russian Orthodox Church in family affairs.

The text complained that Russia is being drawn into the type of relationships "specific to Western civilization, with its fetishization of rights and freedoms." The policy proposed subsidies to motivate childbearing, calling for the reassertion of the traditional role of women in society as mothers and wives.

These retrograde pronouncements are in tune with anachronistic Russian legislation. For instance, Article 253 of Russia's Labor Code and its implementing regulation lists 456 occupations in 38 branches of industry considered too dangerous or harmful to women's health by the authorities.

In 2016, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against

Women found that Article 253 reinforces stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women in family and society that "have the effect of perpetuating traditional roles for women as mothers and wives and undermining women's social status and their educational and career prospects." The UN called on the authorities to amend the legislation, to no avail.

A 2017 piece of legislation effectively sanctions men to use force to ensure their interpretation of respect for family values and unity. The so-called "slapping law" decriminalized some forms of domestic violence, reducing punishment for beatings of spouses or children that result in bruising or bleeding — but do not require hospitalization — to a fine or 15 days in prison if they do not happen more than once a year. Previously these offenses carried a maximum prison term of two years.

The law has already resulted in a surge in domestic violence, normalizing it in a country where, according to some studies, a woman dies of domestic abuse every 40 minutes.

Earlier this year, emerging on the wave of the #MeToo movement, several female journalists in Russia accused lawmaker Leonid Slutsky of inappropriate sexual advances. Before being cleared by the Duma's Ethics Commission, Pletnyova defended Slutsky, saying she was not at all concerned about the issues central to the Harvey Weinstein scandal and that there are "more serious things that we [the Committee] are concerned with."

There are many men like Weinstein and Slutsky around the world, not only in Russia. And I have nothing against Russian men. I am one. But a Russian woman (presuming she likes men at all) might find more desirable those men whose values have been shaped by a tradition of social equality, freedom of opportunity and respect for women's physical safety. These are not the values perpetuated by Pletnyova or the Russian authorities.

Indeed, mass migration of the most talented and well-educated Russian men — those likely "to fetishize human rights" — who seek greater political freedoms and economic opportunities further reduces the options for Russian women to people like Slutsky or World Cup spectators. Were I a Russian woman, I would go for the latter.

Ilya Nuzov is Head of the Eastern Europe-Central Asia Desk at the International Federation for Human Rights. [@ilya_nuzov](https://twitter.com/ilya_nuzov)

Russia's Oldest World Cup Volunteer Loves Ronaldo

Lyudmila Kharyova holds the distinction of joining two other 86-year-olds as the oldest volunteers at the Russia World Cup.

After working at a kiosk in a historic fishing village in Kaliningrad, she made a beeline for the city center on Monday to help Spain supporters who had arrived for the match against Morocco.

"I was very happy to know the championship would take place in Russia and Kaliningrad," the beaming Kharyova said.

"We have four matches and one of them is between Spain and Morocco and I know Spanish, so if I can help, this is the best profit for me to

take part in the World Cup."

Smartly decked out in her blue baseball cap and volunteer jacket, the diminutive Kharyova, who was born in May 1932, admitted she is not a "big" football fan but, like millions of others, Portugal heart-throb Cristiano Ronaldo is at the top of her list.

"I know Ronaldo of course and he seems very nice," Kharyova said. "I will support him through the World Cup."

"I keep an eye on the matches all the time."

Ronaldo's presence in Russia was enough to earn Portugal her support, but Kharyova hedged her bet saying she would also save some for Spain and, of course, the home side.

With a life that has spanned nine decades, Kharyova was educated at Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) University but spent the last 60 years in Kaliningrad, the tiny Russian exclave on the Baltic Sea.

Growing up, she worked as a translator, helping mostly Cuban students who came to study in Russia. She later worked in the fishing industry, finding crews for the ships that trawled the sea.

Kharyova shuddered as she recalled the horror of World War II and the tensions of the Cold War.

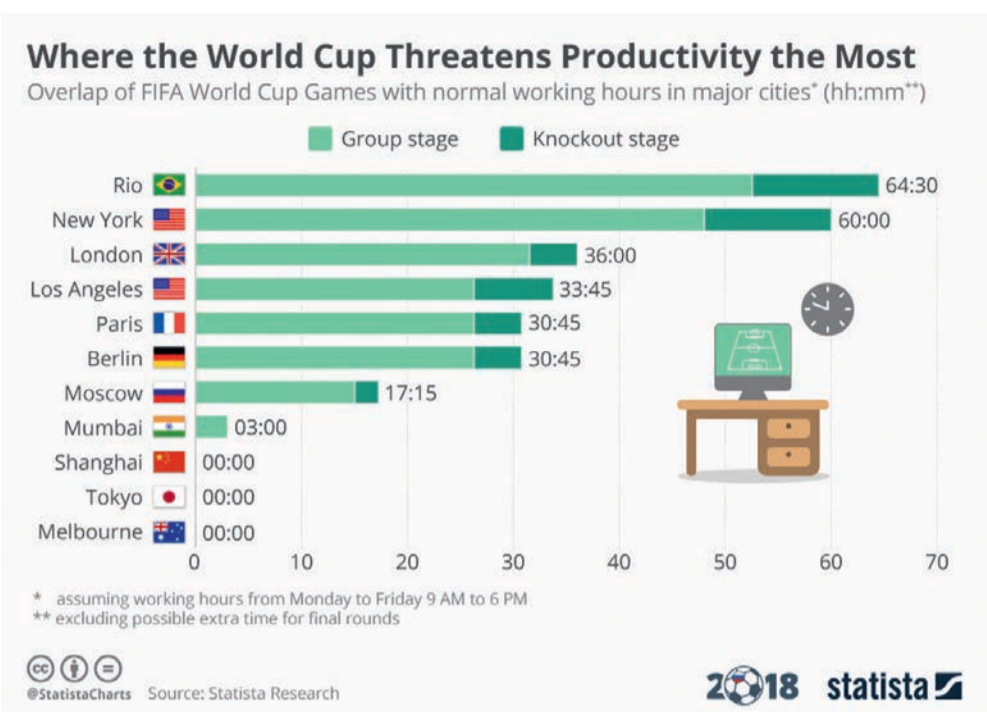
Due to its strategic importance as the base for the Soviet Baltic Fleet during the Cold War, Kaliningrad was a closed city to foreigners. Kharyova now embraces the opportunity to welcome visitors and share in their World Cup joy.

"I am the child of war," Kharyova said. "I was in the first grade when the Soviet Foreign Minister [Vyacheslav] Molotov said Germany had attacked the Soviet Union."

"I worry about the world, that people should live in peace and be friends and not make war but visit each other and be friends." (Reuters)



Lyudmila, 86, is happy to practice her Spanish.



Life-Size Chocolate Messi Hits the Field



Messi, as 60 kg of chocolate.

Confectioners in Moscow created a life-size chocolate replica of Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi to celebrate his 31st birthday last weekend.

It took bakers at the Altu-fyevo Confectionery six days to make the 60-kilogram sculpture, with the chocolate Messi standing on a football field made out of a cake.

Bronnitsy, the town outside Moscow hosting the Argentinian

team during the tournament, held a birthday party for Messi on Sunday, complete with the chocolate Messi. During the celebration, the football-field cake was carved up and eaten.

The Moscow confectioners proposed to give the sculpture to Messi as a gift, but the Argentinian Football Association politely rejected the offer.

Instead, the sculpture will remain on display in Bronnitsy.

Russia Slams Saudi 'Fake News'

Russia's Foreign Ministry has slammed as fake news a Saudi report accusing the Russian team of doping.

Russia crushed the Saudi team 5-0 in the World Cup opening match.

In an article published on the Saudi outlet Slaati.com, the "author cites an unnamed 'German television outlet' to say that Russia's security services are involved in a sophisticated cover-up," the Foreign Ministry said in an online statement.

The article claimed that "Russia only beat Saudi Arabia because it used banned substances," it continued.

"We hope that the fake news article will inspire a dif-

ferent sentiment among Saudi fans than those who ordered [the article] had in mind."

The ministry said the Saudi outlet was presumably referring to ARD, the German broadcaster whose investigation first exposed widespread doping among Russian athletes.

In a recent report, the broadcaster said a top Russian football player had been among those being investigat-

ed by WADA on doping suspicions. The player was later dropped from the national squad. FIFA, however, this week said it had not found any evidence of doping among Russian players.

Russia's Foreign Ministry frequently points out news articles it considers to be untruthful, labeling them as "fake news."

Meanwhile, a recent poll by the state-run Public Opinion Foundation conducted in June found that 66 percent of Russians questioned had never heard of the term "fake news."

Forty-seven percent, however, said they had encountered inaccurate reporting.

The article claimed Russia won by using banned substances.

MEET THE FANS

I'm only here for three hours so I'm just looking around. But there a lot of friendly people. Thank you Russia! I'm enjoying it here!

Michael from Germany



The \$250,000 Scam

A group of Saudi fans has reportedly been scammed out of 15.7 million rubles (\$250,000) after a stranger falsely promised to arrange a flight from Moscow to their side's match against Egypt.

On Sunday, the fans paid the alleged scam artist for an overnight Moscow-Volgograd flight that never materialized, the RBC outlet cited Moscow police as saying.

"The unidentified person... with no real intention to honor his responsibilities, fled the scene of the crime," RBC reported Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia won its match 2-1, recording its first World Cup victory in over two decades.

Putin's Peace Talks

President Vladimir Putin has reportedly invited the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to attend the World Cup final in Moscow on July 15.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has accepted the invitation to visit Moscow and attend the final at the Luzhniki stadium, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported, citing Abdel Hafiz Nofal, Palestine's Ambassador to Russia.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still considering his invitation, RIA cited a source close to Netanyahu as saying.

Putin last attempted to host a meeting between the two leaders in 2016, but the effort eventually failed over unresolved issues between the two sides.

Oldest Player Record

Egyptian goalkeeper Essam El-Hadary became the oldest player in World Cup history on Tuesday, saving a penalty in Egypt's last game of the tournament against Saudi Arabia.

Despite his efforts, El-Hadary's team lost the game 1-2 and ended the tournament in last place.

El Hadary, at 45 years and 161 days old, beat the previous record for oldest player, which was held by Colombian goalkeeper Faryd Mondragon, who was 43 years and three days old in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

"I'm proud of what I've achieved... I'm the happiest person in the world," El Hadary said.

After the game, the veteran player said he was in excellent shape and had no plans to retire.

UPCOMING GAMES			
Wednesday 5 p.m.	Kazan Arena	Thursday 5 p.m.	Volgograd Arena
	-		
KOREA REPUBLIC		GERMANY	JAPAN
5 p.m.	Yekaterinburg Arena	5 p.m.	Samara Arena
	-		
MEXICO		SWEDEN	SENEGAL
9 p.m.	Moscow, Spartak Stadium	9 p.m.	Kaliningrad Stadium
	-		
SERBIA		BRAZIL	ENGLAND
9 p.m.	Nizhny Novgorod Stadium	9 p.m.	Saransk, Mordovia Arena
	-		
SWITZERLAND		COSTA RICA	PANAMA
			
			TUNISIA

French Superfan Manages Supercheap

Clement Tomaszewski's obsession with the World Cup goes back to 1982, when he took a friend's spot to see the World Cup finals in Spain.

"Bilbao, France-England and we lost 3-1. And I think that it was there that I caught the bug," he said, while taking pictures of Moscow's Bolshoi Theater ahead of his 254th match on Tuesday.

What he loved was the ambience and good spirits between French and English fans, which he says have animated his travels ever since, along with curiosity about the countries he has visited.

Clement d'Antibes — the name by which he is known — has become a celebrity, appearing on television and in newspapers. He has his own website and has become a mascot for France's players.

A retired orthopedic nurse and a grandfather, he makes detailed plans for the World Cup years before the tournament.

Planning enabled him to limit his accommodation costs to 360 euros (\$420) for 34 days in Russia. Bunking with 15 other people, he paid just four euros (\$4.70) a night for a Moscow youth hostel.

Until now, his favorite host country was South Korea, he said, praising the country's hospitality. But the Russians have outdone the Koreans with their desire to help a 70-year-old who speaks barely a word of any language but French.

"I think South Korea will slip to second and



TWITTER

Russia [will] go first," he said. "It's unbelievable. I ask something and people take me. The kindness of the people is incredible."

Social media followers can track him around Russia. However, he has been forced to travel without his equally famous pet Balthazar, as airlines and hotels would not put up with the cockerel — the symbol of French sporting pride.

When the next World Cup is held in Qatar, he will prefer to spend more time on his three grandchildren.

"This will be my eighth and last World Cup," he said. "So I hope for a beautiful last one. Voilà. Then return to France." (Reuters)

Clement bunked with 15 other people at a Moscow youth hostel before his 254th game.



ANTON VAGANOV / REUTERS

Russia fans reacted with dismay at the team's 0-3 loss to Uruguay on Monday.

Blatter Raves About Russia World Cup

FIFA's disgraced ex-president Sepp Blatter was all praises for Russia's football squad, President Vladimir Putin and the Russian tournament in an interview to a local sports channel on Monday.

Blatter was banned from football activities in 2015 for his involvement in a global corruption scandal while head of FIFA. During his visit to the World Cup, Blatter met with Putin at the Kremlin.

"I really like the national team," Blatter told Match TV. "Everyone in Europe said the



ARNOLD WIEGMANN / REUTERS

Sepp Blatter

Russians are stupid and can't win anything — now look at the scoreboard!"

Blatter complimented Russia's ability to put on a strong tournament while facing inter-

national political criticism. Russia is "doing everything right," even while being "pressured from all sides," Blatter said.

He also spoke candidly about FIFA's uncertainty in letting Russia host the tournament: "Believe me, FIFA was seriously pushing for Russia not to get the World Cup."

Blatter's praise extended to the Russian leader, whom he described as very strong. "You can't push around a person like Putin," said the former football official. "He believes in this World Cup."

OPINION

By Molly Jane Zuckerman



Confessions of a World Cup Jailbird

I don't even like football.

But since I happened to be in St. Petersburg during the World Cup, and since my friend's friend just happened to be flogging a spare ticket because she was sick, I figured there were worse ways to spend my Tuesday night. I set off anticipating a night of warm, expensive beer and ringing eardrums.

As we approached the security check at the stadium, my friend slipped "my" FAN ID around my neck and handed me "my" ticket. "I'm going to be 'Nastya' now?" I asked, looking down at a picture of a blue-eyed, brown-haired girl. (I do actually have blue eyes, but unfortunately not brown hair.) "Sure, sure," my distracted friend said. "I can't wait to get inside and paint my face."

I was immediately stopped by a young woman checking tickets. First, she asked me to back up, then she looked me up and down, then she called over her partner to get a second opinion. "This isn't the same chin," someone said as they scrutinized me and my FAN ID in turn. I stayed calm even as a swarm of around 30 security and police officers gathered to peer intently into my still relatively calm face and apparently foreign chin.

At this point, I saw no reason to give up. After all, I was invoking my experience as an 18-year-old in the United States trying to get into a bar with an older friend's ID. The bouncer, upon noticing that I wasn't "Angela Lee" or some equally ridiculous moniker, would send me on my way with a "better luck next time."

But this is Russia. So when the head of security took the ingenious step of looking in my wallet and found a two-year old university ID with a name on it

I was instead hustled into a detention center underneath the stadium where I was held for 5 hours.

that was neither "Nastya" nor Russian, I was not sent home. Instead, I was hustled into a detention center underneath the stadium where I was to stay for the next five hours, familiarizing myself with the seedy types who inhabit World Cup jail.

We were not an especially nefarious bunch. There was me, the confused American, an equally confused Russian grandfather-type with an electric-blue wig (I

never found out what he had done), three drunkards, a Mexican fan who had unfortunately lent her sick daughter's FAN ID to her Spanish-speaking tour guide and the Spanish-speaking tour guide.

Most of us managed to stay on the far side of the actual barred cages (one drunkard hit a police officer for no apparent reason and was unceremoniously shoved inside), which were filled with the aforementioned drunkard and one incredibly depressed looking foreign fan who seemed to be in there for the sole reason that he didn't speak Russian.

One by one, we gave our stories and fingerprints to the head officer, who shook his head over our naivety about the strictness of FIFA's rules. This process was going smoothly until the youngest drunkard adamantly refused in broken English to admit he spoke Russian.

Another snag was prompted by the older gentleman, who had requested a medical envoy for his diabetes. Drunkard number two, sensing an opportunity in this, began shouting about his high blood pressure and the possibility that he could spontaneously have some sort of attack without a doctor present. Another medic was dutifully called, a blood pressure cuff was applied and no one died.

When it was my turn to be fingerprinted, I joked easily with the young man using the both high-tech and poorly functioning fingerprinting machine. Not in uniform, the man's shirt read "Greasy Monkey Garage and Repairs," which I translated literally to his and his partner's delight.

Once everyone had been put into the system, we were herded into one of the giant, barred, bulletproof riot police vans, where we sat on the back benches (un-seatbelted) as we jostled over St. Petersburg's potholes and took selfies with our arresting officers.

After arriving at the police station to pay our \$50 fines, we were asked to wait around for 20 more minutes for some bureaucratic Russian reason. Drunkard number two had apparently had enough and covertly called Russian emergency services on his cellphone, whispering his complaint of "high blood pressure induced by police arrest." I left the police station at 2 a.m., \$50 lighter, to the sound of approaching sirens. My friend met me outside with a burger and an unused 20,000-ruble bribe.

Now I really don't like football.

Molly Jane Zuckerman is a journalist based in St. Petersburg.

@MollyJZuckerman



Some of the shops and restaurants on Nikolskaya are enjoying a spike in revenues while others complain of major disruption.

Boom and Bust

Not all businesses on Nikolskaya Ulitsa are benefiting from the huge influx of foreign fans

BY ANTON MURATOV [@ARONM211](#)

Red Square in Moscow is probably Russia's best-known tourist spot, but since the World Cup kicked off two weeks ago, a sleepy street leading away from the iconic landmark has stolen the limelight.

Although Nikolskaya Ulitsa, which stands in the shadow of the lavish GUM department store, is not a designated FIFA fan zone, it has quickly become party central for tens of thousands of football fans from Russia and abroad.

Stewart and Paul, from Doncaster, England, went straight to Nikolskaya after arriving in Russia. They told The Moscow Times they had "heard about the 'street of lights' before even coming here."

As fans from around the world, with wallets wide-open, descend on the 600-meter pedestrianized street to celebrate and mourn their teams' performances, many businesses lining the street are emerging as the real winners.

The director of a busy sports bar called Wings, Irina Yegorova, nodded to a group of Moroccans leaning against the bar before saying the fans "have been an incredible boost to business."

"After walking around the city all day, they need a place to eat and drink," Yegorova told The Moscow Times. "Turnaround has increased five-fold."

Big spenders

"Sales have increased quite a bit," agreed Albina, the manager of the upscale restaurant called Miramar who, like other managers, declined to give her last name. "We haven't had an empty table for a week now."

"Our food may be more refined," she added, comparing the average price of a meal at her restaurant to others on the busy thoroughfare. "But that hasn't stopped the fans from piling in."

While the flow of customers is bringing in money, some restaurant owners realize it will probably only last as long as the football does. "Whether it's because the other cafés are full or because they feel like treating themselves, fans aren't really distinguishing between places," she told The Moscow Times. "Both KFC [a fast-food store] and Miramar have lines outside them."

Outside the Azbuka Vkusa grocery chain, where fans had occupied the front steps of the store, branch manager Maxim said sales had surged threefold. "They don't really notice the prices," he said. "The fans must be having a good time."

Local managers agree that beer is their top-selling product. "It's mainly Corona for the Mexicans," Maxim said jokingly. Indeed, in addition to the authentic football atmosphere, Stewart and Paul from England said

Beer-guzzling customers are constantly breaking glasses and blocking the doorway to my shop.

what brought them to the street was the "cheap beer."

Souvenir shops are also feeling the benefits — and pressures — of the higher volume of customers. The first store after the Red Square entrance was packed to the point that none of the recently hired assistants could stop to speak.

Further down the street, Eduard, an assistant manager at a souvenir shop, described a discount program his shop had on the first day of the World Cup. "Every item on sale was gone," he said. "We couldn't keep up with demand. ... We have always had tourists coming in, but this is a whole different story."

Expensive countdown

Not all businesses, however, have got an equal share. Olga and Tatyana from the Samson-Pharma chain of pharmacies said football fans weren't their shop's "target customer."

Sitting between empty aisles of medicines, they said they still occasionally sold band-aids, water and sunscreen, but that sales of their more expensive products, like specialty cosmetics, had dropped. "They just don't need them," Tatyana told The Moscow Times.

Yelena, the director of the Coffee House chain, had mixed feelings about the arrival of the beer-guzzling football enthusiasts, saying she couldn't have asked for better customers. Still, she said, they "constantly break glasses and block the doorway to my shop."

The manager of the Wings sports bar similarly had not made up her mind, saying tactfully that the fans could get very "rowdy."

The manager at the Azbuka Vkusa grocery store said "there's a mess outside, and they bring it into the store."

He added that while he has seen an uptick in shoplifting, the biggest issue was that the crowds had "completely disrupted the flow of regular customers."

Yevgenia, the director of the Spanish Tous jewelry store, noted that their sales had been



Nikolskaya attracts fans from all countries.

hit by the World Cup. "The streets are closed off and there's too much traffic in the center," she said.

Aside from the fact that the historic building her shop is located in had been tagged with graffiti, she said the atmosphere had become very "touristy," a perhaps diplomatic turn of phrase that Alexandra, the administrator at the Novaya Zarya perfume shop, also used.

Both Alexandra and Tatyana from the pharmacy said that locals and the regular customer base stopped coming in because getting there became "inconvenient," especially with the "drunk and disorderly" crowds.

Svetlana Yakubova, manager of the Linzmaster glasses store, was happy that Russia could be in the spotlight for a bit. But, she added, she'll also be glad to see life on the street return to normal.

"[We're] waiting for the crowds to die down so that our regular customers can return."

The Dark Side of the 'Street of Lights'

BY LORETTA PERERA [@RETTPERERA](#)

It begins in the Lubyanka metro station. A middle-aged man in a Mexico jersey runs his hands over my shoulders. His response to my glare is unapologetic. We're two weeks into the World Cup and this is the fifth time I've been physically harassed on the streets of central Moscow.

I'm on my way to Nikolskaya Ulitsa, the site of the unofficial football party that began the day before opening match and shows no sign of slowing.

For many football fans, Nikolskaya has become the epicenter of debauchery: Alcohol flows freely (despite a ban on public drinking) and fans in jerseys from around the world sing in rowdy groups. Some jump on benches, and on the nights of particularly dramatic matches, others climb lampposts.

For women, it has become a place of heightened risk in a World Cup which is becoming marred by high-profile incidents of harassment. Just this weekend, a Brazilian reporter dodged a man trying to kiss her live on-air outside the stadium in Yekaterinburg.

"Never do this to a woman, OK?" she says in the now viral video. "Luckily, I have never experienced this in Brazil. Over here it has happened twice. Sad! Shameful!" Julia Guimarães wrote on Twitter.

The Sisters Center sexual assault NGO has not registered an increase in calls to their crisis hotline or general requests for assistance since the influx of foreign fans arrived in Russia. Moreover, "We have not received appeals [from fans]," said director Nadezhda Zamotayeva. "But most likely they simply do not know where to turn."

One especially egregious video from Nikolskaya circulating on social media shows a group of mostly Brazilian men goading a Russian girl to chant a slur about female genitalia. But a night on Nikolskaya shows that sexual harassment is not limited to fans from any one country.

The first 10 minutes on the pedestrian thoroughfare on a recent early evening meant three grazes from wandering fans, beer in one hand and the other free to roam.

In a bar at Nikolskaya during the South Korea



For some female football fans participating in the festivities, visiting Nikolskaya comes with the risk of unwanted attention from rowdy fans.

vs. Mexico match, two girls are approached by a man from India. "My friends want to talk to you girls," he declares. "But football *uber alles*. Then we talk to you."

The two students are unfazed: "If you behave the right way, there won't be any problems," Karina, 21, says. "We have our heads on and we think."

Over the course of an hour, the women are approached several times by passing football fans. One stops to introduce himself, then theatrically kisses the hand of Kristina, 20. "I thought he would just say hi, but he kissed my hand," she says, flustered. "I don't like it. It makes me uncomfortable."

Overall, however, the girls say the pros of meeting foreign fans outweigh the cons. "Before the World Cup our lives were trivial," Kristina says. "[Now] we've begun to feel united with foreigners."

With the match drawing to a close, the women take their cue to leave. "[For either] men or women, it's not safe after the last match," Kristina cautions, apprehensive of the thousands of fans who will soon descend onto the streets. The football is done for the day, but the party is just getting started.

It is now 11 p.m. and the energy levels on Nikolskaya are surging. The police are going easy on public drinking and supermarkets are bending the after-hours alcohol laws to cash in on the 24-hour party.

Closer to Red Square, two teenage Russian girls stand surrounded by a large group of men draped in Tunisian flags. When the young women slip away from the pack, the men trail after them.

Overall it's fun, the girls tell me, shouting to be heard over the men who have enclosed them in a semi-circle with increasingly loud chants of "olé, olé, olé" and other slogans. But, they say, the crowd is dangerous too because anyone can touch you.

"You push them away and then you leave," says Nastya, 16. "There are always police nearby," adds Anna, 17. "They can help right away."

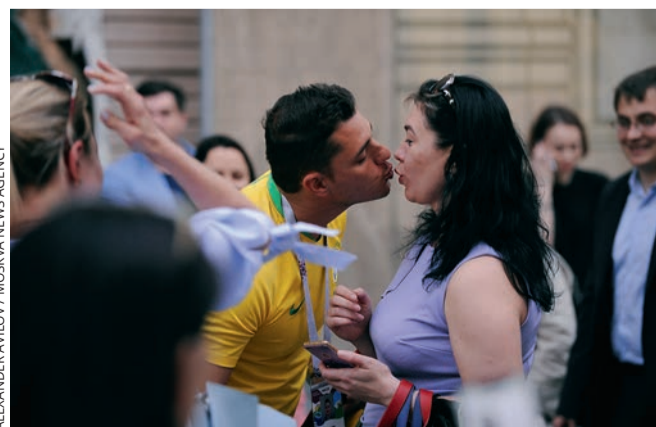
But at 3 a.m., another girl is slumped on a

bench. She can barely pronounce her name and her friends are gone. Over the course of an hour, on and around the bench, a trickle of mostly Russian men approach her saying they are her friend and offering to take her home.

When a kerfuffle breaks out at the end of Nikolskaya between her and several men, two policemen come over. "She said that she's OK," one of them shrugs as they walk away. "We don't need to do anything."



A video of Julia Guimaraes being harassed has gone viral.



Activists say women may not know where to seek support.



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ANTON MURATOV / MT

7 p.m. Before the World Cup, Nikolskaya Ulitsa was a quiet pedestrian street, used mostly as a way to get from Red Square to Lubyanka. Now, it is a destination in itself. The night starts early.



SERGEI KISELYOV / MOSKVA NEWS AGENCY

8 p.m. For Russians, it is a unique opportunity to meet foreign fans and support the home team.

PAVEL ZELENKOV / MT



PAVEL ZELENKOV / MT

11 p.m. Mexican fans make their presence known on Nikolskaya. Chants of "Viva Mexico!" sound through the air and a fan climbs up a lamppost to attach the Mexican flag.



MAXIM SHEMETOV / REUTERS

12 p.m. With alcohol flowing, the crowd grows more animated. One thing is for sure: People are really getting into football.

ALEXANDER AVILOV / MOSKVA NEWS AGENCY



PAVEL ZELENKOV / MT

3 a.m. Some venues on Nikolskaya close for an hour in the early morning to clean up. Three revelers sit outside a restaurant, waiting for it to reopen.



PAVEL ZELENKOV / MT

4 a.m. Public toilets and restaurant bathrooms are available, but many choose an easier way.

PAVEL ZELENKOV / MT

Night an

We spent 12 hours in the impromptu
On Nikolskaya Ulitsa, the party som

1

5



9 p.m. Come a bit later and the Tretyakovskiy passage off Nikolskaya will be crammed with fans.



10 p.m. As evening turns into night, noise levels increase. Normally, Russians know, such rowdiness would attract the attention of the police. So they are getting in on the fun while it lasts.

and Day

omptu heart of Russia's World Cup.
sometimes slows, but it never stops.



1 a.m. Loud music, chanting and yelling — Those who go to Nikolskaya, don't go for conversation.



2 a.m. Russian police grab hold of a Brazilian fan for misbehaving and a group of Russian fans intervene on his behalf. A fight ensues.



5 a.m. Often overlooked, cleaners work round the clock to keep Nikolskaya clear of litter.



6 a.m. By now, it is broad daylight but some people are not quite ready to call it quits.

Host City in the Spotlight:



FLICKR

tens of thousands more were taken as prisoners of war and buildings were razed to the ground. By the time the Nazis were gone, only six of Rostov-on-Don's original 270 factories and plants remained.

The tremendous wartime sacrifice has been well-acknowledged. In 1970 Rostov-on-Don was awarded the Order of Lenin, and in 1982 it received the 1st Degree Order of the Patriotic War. Locals rebuilt the city from the ruins. On the 63rd anniversary of Soviet victory in World War II in 2008, the city was awarded a final recognition: the honorary title "City of Military Glory."

The Soviets turned Rostov-on-Don into a large industrial city of over 1 million people. It became a major producer of agricultural equipment. This legacy continues in its current industry, where agriculture and the production of agricultural equipment are among the most rapidly developing sectors. It is the headquarters for one of the world's biggest combine makers, Rostselmash Group, which has plants in the United States, Canada and Kazakhstan.

And this affinity for agriculture is not limited to just the field and factory. Besides football, locals seem to like a homegrown sport even more:

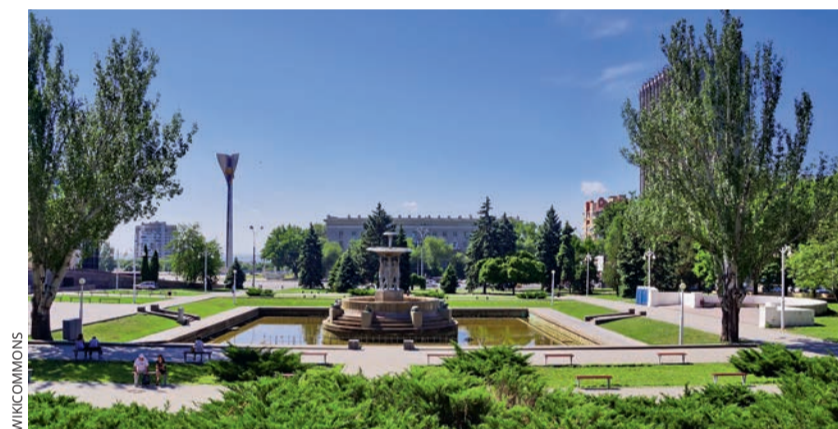
Rostov-on-Don

Cossacks with whips, tractor races and a rich literary and heroic war history, Rostov-on-Don offers excitement in and out of the stadium

Visitors to the World Cup in Rostov-on-Don will notice a strange addition to the security milling about the stadium's perimeter: Cossacks on horseback and armed with whips. Cossacks, a paramilitary group traditionally found in southern Russia and Ukraine, have been deployed to assist with security measures at the tournament. Their presence will be especially prevalent in Rostov-on-Don, where even before the World Cup

Cossacks in dark-blue uniforms and trousers with red stripes were known to ride chestnut horses along the banks of the Don River. In this southern city, they are a part of the local fabric.

The design of the new Rostov Arena evokes the natural surroundings. The stadium's textured roof imitates the movements of the Don River. Like most Russian World Cup stadium projects, the arena ran into complications during construction. These included budget issues, a difficult design and last-minute construction. But



WIKICOMMONS

With its agricultural traditions, Rostov-on-Don is a true southern city.

Rostov Arena was able to summon its Cossack spirit and whip itself into shape just in time.

Rostov-on-Don was founded by Empress Elizabeth in 1749 as a state customs port. The location was crucial, as the city stands where the Don River flows into its tributary, the Temernik River, which at the time was under Turkish control. Within a few years, the port became a fortress and then a merchant city. It was officially named Rostov-on-Don by 1806. (It should not be confused with Rostov Veliky, as some Swiss fans did recently. They accidentally booked a hotel in the wrong Rostov.)

The city grew steadily throughout the 19th century, due to both an increase of trade and the expansion of the Russian frontier into the surrounding Caucasus. White and pale yellow stucco mansions from this period still line the streets.

As with most Russian cities, the picturesque classical landscape began to transform at the dawning of the Soviet era. This period in Rostov-on-Don's history was famously captured in the four-volume epic novel "And Quiet Flows the Don" by Mikhail Sholokhov. The novel describes the lives of Don Cossacks during World War I, the Russian Revolution and the Russian Civil War. Many monuments to its characters are scattered throughout the city, providing vibrant color and charm. They include a boy chasing geese, a woman carrying water and Sholokhov himself. "And Quiet Flows the Don" won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1965.

This literary legacy is indicative of the true military legacy that Rostov-on-Don earned during the Soviet era. The city was pivotal in World War II, the location of a major turning point in the Red Army's victory over Nazi Germany. Joseph Goebbels called Rostov-on-Don the "Gate to the Caucasus," alluding to its strategic importance for the Nazis. When the Wehrmacht army attempted to pass through this gate in November 1941, it met its first major defeat by the Soviets.

Nonetheless, the attack took its toll on the city. Tens of thousands of civilians were killed,

tractor racing. Every summer, tractor drivers from all over the Rostov region kick up the dirt at the Bizon Track Show, the only rally of its kind in Russia. The roaring tractors, tearing through mud and dust in the race just outside Rostov-on-Don, return to their normal farm work immediately after the contest.

From pre-revolutionary mansions to literary sculptures, from fierce tractor racers to proud Cossacks, fans in Rostov-on-Don will have a lot to goggle at. Maybe they will find time to watch some football too.

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ROUND OF 16



PROLIV



With great attention given to the design of the restaurant's comfortable interior, the setting is just right for enjoying inventive meals.

Where the Intelligentsia Eats: Proliv

By **Andrei Muchnik** | [@amuchnik](#)

Homemade vodka infusions, new variations on traditional cuisine, plus an installation

Mitya Borisov, the restaurateur best known for the now ubiquitous chains Jean-Jacques and John Donne, went sharply left-field with his recent venture Proliv, which has become a magnet for Moscow's intelligentsia.

Located right between the respective flagship restaurants of his two chains on Nikitsky Bulvar, the name "Proliv" is an inside joke. It means "channel" in Russian, while Jean Jacques and John Donne represent, respectively, France and Britain.

One unusual aspect is the restaurant's special attraction: an installation by the Russian artist and architect Alexander Brodsky, known for his works of paper architecture. Brodsky came up with the idea of an installation titled

"Seagull-Swallow" ("Chaika-Lastochka") several years ago. The space at the back of the restaurant fit his idea perfectly.

The installation resembles an open-air bar on a seashore. There's a small table where visitors can have a drink while looking around and listening to the sound of the sea and the screeches of seagulls. The soundtrack for the installation was made by Leonid Fyodorov, musician and leader of Auktsyon, a cult Russian alternative rock band from St. Petersburg.

The restaurant's interior was designed by Borisov himself, with participation from Brodsky. It can be best defined as "shabby chic," with decor reminiscent of a pre-revolutionary St. Petersburg apartment. Green paint is flaking off the walls, and the guests can glimpse their reflections in a double row of mirrors.

The crowd is what has become fashionable to call the "creative class": writers, actors, journalists, artists and the like. Borisov and Brodsky previously collaborated at now-defunct restaurants Ulitsa O.G.I. and Apshu, both very popular during the early 2000s.

Alexei Goribol, a celebrity piano player, is responsible for the music at Proliv, which is played on a vinyl record player. Currently, visitors are most likely to hear the tones of classical and neo-classical music when they step inside.

Proliv's chef is Nikolai Fedotov, who previously dished up Scandinavian food at wine bar Enebaer. Here, the Ashkenazi cuisine of Odessa is a major influence. Start with one of the appetizers, which taste like something from your grandma's kitchen: eggs stuffed with sprats and borodinsky bread or *forshmak*, Jewish herring salad.

Some of the mains are fairly innovative, like the excellent buckwheat with porcini mushrooms and onion or the tasty *pelmeni*, traditional Russian dumplings with unorthodox fillings of spicy lamb or shrimp. Finish your meal with one of the desserts, like a glass of fresh berries or chocolate coffee mousse with salt.

Alexei Zimin, a cult figure on Moscow's culinary scene, has created a series of homemade vodka infusions which are ideal chasers. Zimin, the former chef at Ragout and editor-in-chief of Afisha Yeda magazine, has produced some rare concoctions for Proliv, like sea-buckthorn and highland orange. Looking to the future, Proliv's owners promise regular tastings by guest chefs.

12 Nikitsky Bulvar. Metro Arbatskaya.
prolivproliv.ru

RECOMMENDED



DELICATESSEN



WHITE RABBIT



HAGGIS



TWINS GARDEN

Delicatessen

Combining innovative recipes with home-style cozy interiors, Delicatessen is the perfect place to experience the new era of Moscow dining. With dishes ranging from diaphragm steak with lime and coconut mashed potatoes to grilled tongue with black chanterelle cream, one thing you can be sure of is that you're in for a surprise. And as for the cocktail bar, with dozens of creative choices chalked onto the walls of the restaurant, your only limit is your own imagination—and Delicatessen can help you with that. 20 Sadovaya-Karetnaya, Bldg 2. Metro Mayakovskaya.
newdeli.ru

White Rabbit

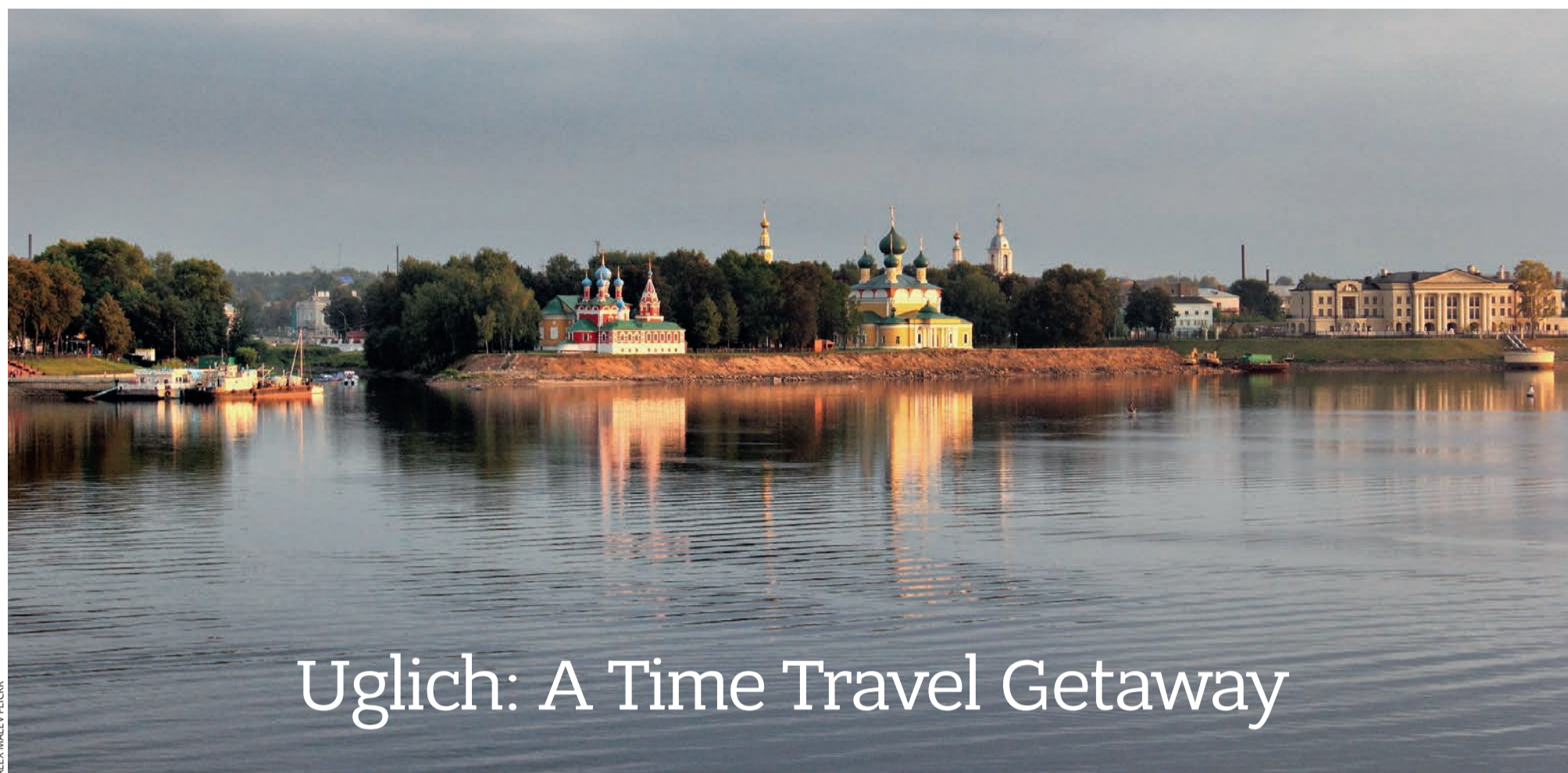
From its location on the 16th floor of Smolensky Passage, White Rabbit offers its visitors stunning views of the city as they taste the restaurant's many innovative dishes. Every Russian classic is brought to the next level as *borshch* gets a filling of crucians, baked beans and turnip crisps, and simple pies are re-imagined to contain grouse and mushrooms or veal and beef tongue. The restaurant's special pride, however, is its unique set of vegan dishes: Moving with the times, they provide sun-dried beet tartare, sea star-looking pumpkin ravioli and much more. 3 Smolenskaya Ploshchad. Metro Smolenskaya.
whiterabbitmoscow.ru/en

Haggis

Take Russian and British cooking traditions, mix them together, put them in a typical British pub and place it in the center of Moscow, and you get Haggis—a cutting-edge gastropub whose dishes combine familiar flavors in unique ways to make something entirely new. Serving everything from scotch pies with wild deer to chicken liver pate with jellied cider, the pub is a love letter to the two cultures. Add to that its inexhaustible drinks menu, featuring craft beer from seven countries, and there's no better place to spend an evening. 15 Petrovka Ulitsa, Bldg. 1, Metro Teatralnaya.
en.haggispub.ru

Twins Garden

Named in reference to the identical twin chefs who brought it into being, Twins Garden is the new word in organic, locally-sourced cuisine. Two thirds of their produce, including fish and fowl, as well as herbs, berries and vegetables, come from their own farm in the Kaluga region, and it is these simple natural ingredients that the brothers' laboratory turns into mouthwatering, modern dishes. Visitors can settle down with their calf tail *pelmeni* with pike caviar and black garlic broth and peruse the extensive wine list—one of the longest in all of Russia. 8A Strastnoi Bulvar. Metro Pushkinskaya.
twinsgarden.ru



Uglich: A Time Travel Getaway

By Houssam Alissa

A tranquil spot to get some peace and quiet, fresh air, exercise and lots of history

Are you tired of Moscow? Maybe you want to get away from it all for a day or two, but you've already been to St. Petersburg? Then consider Uglich, a charming and tranquil town located on the banks of the Volga River — an ideal getaway from the concrete chaos of city life.

Join the 360,000 people who take the trip every year and, in doing so, increase Uglich's population tenfold. Jump in the car or take the (rather long) bus journey from Shchyolkovskaya, VDNKh or Aeroport metro stations. The journey takes around five hours.

With its beautiful onion domes poking up above the quaint town square, Uglich may seem parochial at first glance, but don't be fooled. This little town offers enough fun, edifying and leisure activities to keep you on (or off) your feet for a couple of days. Do be aware, though: The town is still a tourism work in progress. There are plenty of beautifully remodeled and maintained museums and old buildings, but not everything is cleaned up. So you may see some rundown areas in your peripheral vision.

Museums

You can't visit Uglich without visiting its **Kremlin**. Built on the site of the much-contested death of Tsarevich Dmitry, the only heir to Ivan the Terrible, it is a beautiful example of medieval Russian architecture. In Uglich everyone insists that young Dmitry was murdered after Ivan's death in order to clear the way to the throne for Boris Godunov, the former tsar's right-hand man. Dmitry is considered to be the only saint in the Russian Orthodox Church who watches over children, which is one of the reasons that Uglich is a place of pilgrimage. Inside Dmitry's church within the Kremlin, complex murals depicting his murder and the persecution of his killers cover walls that would usually be reserved for icons and biblical frescos.

3 Kremlin. uglmus.yar.muzkult.ru

Adjoining one of Russia's oldest hydroelectric power stations is the bells-and-whistles **Museum**



of Hydroelectric Power. The modern building has a seemingly endless series of rooms, ranging from the informatively detailed, through to the satisfyingly hands-on, to the downright weird. The museum covers not only the history of hydroelectric power in Russia but also the world, and takes a look at how the prisoners of the gulag were the real workforce behind the hydroelectric project. For non-Russian speakers, don't expect to understand much unless you take a tour in English, but for some light entertainment, do watch out for a couple of rather dodgy-looking mannequins.

33 Spasskaya Ulitsa. hydromuseum.ru.

You might need a sharpener after the technicalities of hydroelectric power, so scoot across town to the **History of Russian Vodka Museum**. It's a short and sweet trip, but particularly sweet if you pay a couple of rubles extra to try some of the vodka at the end. The walls are entirely covered with vodka bottles, old and new, from across Russia. Other cabinets hold novelty bottles from all over the world, including an impressive vessel in the shape of a pig and a Chinese brand with "essence de pickled viper." It's only one room, but you could spend hours gawping at all the varieties of this classic Russian beverage on display.

3 Ulitsa Olgi Berggolts.

Ever heard of Baba Yaga? Do you know what a *bes* is? If not, you should definitely check out the astonishingly creepy Museum of Russian Legends and Superstitions. This will be great fun for you and your kids — provided that you understand Russian. Inside is a sinister jumble of mythical creatures once thought to wreak mischief on the lives of Russian people. The Brothers Grimm had nothing on Russian folklore.

40 Ulitsa 9 Yanvarya. sueverija.narod.ru.

Gorgeous murals cover the walls of Uglich's most historic churches.

Food

Uglich offers plenty of good food. For inexpensive, hearty

Russian cuisine, pop into Café Na Uspenskoi (3 Uspenskaya Ploshchad) or Russkaya Usadba (9 Ulitsa Olgi Berggolts). Another great option is Fusion Café (9a Ulitsa Olgi Berggolts) on the second floor of the Dom Kino cinema: Grab yourself a cold beer on the terrace overlooking Victory Park, where you can watch the souvenir sellers peddle their wares and plan what you're going to nip down and buy afterwards. Meanwhile, your kids, who might be feeling a little fussy about what's on offer in some of the town's more traditional restaurants, can tuck into a variety of trusty Russian, Asian and Italian dishes.

By far the best option is Stary Gorod (4 Yaroslavskaya Ulitsa) — the king of chintzy restaurants. From the outside it looks like an abandoned Disneyland ride, and inside it's a mix-match of conference center meets "Saturday Night Fever." But never judge a book by its cover. The food is terrific, and all of it is very reasonably priced. Try out the mushroom-stuffed chicken with curry sauce: sounds weird, tastes wonderful.

Dairy lovers should also keep an eye out for the Ugleche Pole brand and pick themselves up some delicious cheeses, yogurt and sour cream organically produced in Uglich.

Outdoors

Uglich is recommended for nature lovers. Located on the Volga River, the city offers no shortage of adventures waiting for active types. All manners of river excursions are available, from yacht rentals to a two-day kayak trip across 55 kilometers of river for the truly hardcore. For a calmer afternoon, rent a wheeled catamaran and enjoy a chilled day of fishing.

Sporty types can check out the bicycle tours

Travelers should be sure to visit Transfiguration Cathedral and the Church of Prince Dmitry.



ALEXANDER ZYKOV/FICKR

on offer. Push yourself to the limit with the two-day Golden-Domed Rus tour that will have you pedaling your way to the end of a 45 kilometer route, stopping for meals and a night's camping.

If you want to combine exercise with some history, check out the numerous walking tours on offer in Uglich, variously focusing on mercantile history, art, religious history and the city itself. For those craving a little more excitement, the Museum Watch quest is ideal: You and your team work against the clock as you bounce from museums to

monuments to monasteries in an attempt to answer all the questions assigned to you at the start.

Other attractions include tranquil horse rides through meadows and forests, an ostrich farm and the opportunity to spoil yourself rotten at hotel spas, banyas and beauty salons.

Hotels

After all this activity, you'll need a decent place to lay your weary head. The four-star Volga Riviera is a classy hotel with reasonable prices. It has its

own spa complete with swimming pool, saunas, massage room and your own personal beautician. 8 Uspenskaya Ploshchad. volga-hotel.com.

The Hotel Uspenskaya is the best of an otherwise uninspiring bunch, located on the town square, and is a stylish, comfy hotel with 22 rooms at reasonable prices, a sauna, parking facilities and a cozy café offering classic Russian cuisine.

3 Uspenskaya Ploshchad. uspenskaya-uglich.ru.

Advertorial

In partnership with TSUM

Creativity and Football Festival in TSUM



peknava

Last week the "Creativity and Football Festival" started on the square in front of TSUM on the side of the Kuznetsky Most street. It was a result of a collaboration between the department store and ADIDAS, one of the official sponsors of this summer main sporting event. The opening ceremony was attended by a legendary football player and football coach Ruud Gullit.

The open city festival aims to create an atmosphere of a sport celebration among residents and visitors of the capital. Sixteen spherical structures resembling footballs were mounted on the square during the event. Each of the installations became not only a unique object for the display of official jersey ADIDAS and boots of the best players, but also a canvas for graffiti artists inspired by the unique aesthetics of all 32 countries participating in the Championship. A stand with the Championship tournament grid, where you can track the results of matches, was installed on the square for football fans.

The symbol of the festival was the installation of Giant Telstar Ball in a shape of the official game ball at the central



TSUM

entrance to TSUM. Everyone is able not only to take a photo with the main football symbol of this summer, but also to take part in an entertainment program that includes tournaments in a Panna-cell for live DJ sets, freestyle lessons, football training for children, drawing of aqua makeup, as well as meetings with stars that take place at the Adidas pop-up shop on the first floor of TSUM.

"Festival of Creativity and Football" will be held throughout the game period of the Championship — from June 18th to July 15th.

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Celebrating the First World Cup

By Maria Michela D'Allesandro

New exhibition is dedicated to the 1930 games

In Amsterdam 90 years ago, the International Football Federation, today simply called FIFA, decided to stage football championships every four years. Two years later, in 1930, the first international football competition took place in Uruguay, selected as the most suitable venue for the championship.

This year Russia is hosting the 21st FIFA World Cup, and to celebrate the sporting event, the Multimedia Art Museum in Moscow (MAMM) has an exhibition all about that first-ever World Cup championship.

The exhibition includes photographs, posters and the cup itself, as well as objects used by the football players from the collection of the Montevideo Municipal Center of Photography and the Museum of Football in Montevideo.

Despite FIFA rules stipulating that the host country would cover all the expenses, only thirteen national teams decided to take part in the event: nine representatives from the American continents (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the United States) and four European teams (Belgium, France, Romania and Yugoslavia).

Construction woes

A new stadium that met all the requirements of the world tournament was built for the 1930 FIFA World Cup in Montevideo. But although more than 1,000 workers labored to construct the stadium in a record time of less than ten months, it was not yet completed for the first World Cup match.



Due to the delay, one of the opening matches between France and Mexico was played on July 13, 1930, at the Estadio Pocitos, which was later demolished when the local football team Peñarol started to play in the new Centenario Stadium as its home field. On the same day, the United States and Belgium played in Montevi-

deo's Central Park. In the end, the two fields hosted six more World Cup matches.

Centenario Stadium was inaugurated five days after the World Cup kicked off, and the event was part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Uruguayan Constitution. A parade of delegations marched around the perimeter of the field and after Uruguayan President Raul Jude's speech, the first match – Uruguay vs. Peru – was played.

The first World Cup stadium was not completed in time for the tournament, so players competed on a backup pitch.

Evolution

The pictures exhibited at MAMM show one of the most important moments in the history of sports, allowing the visitor to see the difference between the old and new championship. The 1930 World Cup lasted 18 days, and at that time the national teams' football players were not professionals. Many of them were blue-collar workers.

Of course, there was no television or internet. Radio was the only way for fans to follow matches, which were all broadcasted by the Uruguayan

Radio Broadcasting Service. Many posters and leaflets with drawings of Centenario Stadium were printed to help listeners familiarize themselves with what was happening on the field.

"A lot of things have changed since the first World Cup took place, from the rules to the organization, but what has not changed is the passion, and especially the joy and the fun of this sport," Uruguayan Sports Minister Fernando Caceres told The Moscow Times during the exhibition's opening.

The World Cup has successively expanded ever since then to the current format of a 32-team final tournament. It is preceded by a two-year qualifying process for over 200 teams from around the world.

The Center of Photography of Montevideo organized this project in Moscow. It also includes a display of a copy of the first World Cup trophy, which is much smaller than the current one (the original is kept in the Montevideo Foot-



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ball Museum). Next to the trophy is a small soil sample from Centenario Stadium.

"The First FIFA World Cup of 1930" runs until July 29 at the Multimedia Art Museum of Moscow. 12 Ulitsa Ostozhenka. Metro Kropotkinskaya. mamm-mdf.ru



Most of the players in the first World Cup were not professionals.

Steel Panther

June 27

A glam metal band from Los Angeles, Steel Panther mixes comedy and hard rock. Known for covers of hits as well as their own humorous songs, Steel Panther is sure to stage quite a performance for its Moscow fans. The group released their fourth studio album last year and the concert at GlavClub is part of the tour to support it.

GlavClub

11 Ulitsa Ordzhonikidze. Metro Leninsky Prospekt. glavclub.com



STEEL PANTHER

Exhibition Vasily Vereshchagin

Through July 15

The Vasily Vereshchagin retrospective at the New Tretyakov Gallery presents a comprehensive overview of this substantial 19th century painter. It's the latest installment in an exhibition series devoted to prominent Russian painters, following retrospectives on Valentin Serov and Ivan Aivazovsky. The scale is immense, with about 500 items: 180 paintings and 140 drawings, plus letters and various objects of applied and decorative arts, such as Central Asian carpets and gowns. Most of the items are from the Tretyakov Gallery and the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, but a total of 20 museums and four private collections contributed to this exhibition.

The New Tretyakov Gallery

10 Krymsky Val. Metro Oktyabrskaya. tretyakovgallery.ru

Arts features 82 works by Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Johannes Vermeer, Carel Fabritius, Gerard Dow, Jan Lievens and others, none previously exhibited in Russia. Named after Rembrandt's native city, the Leiden Collection was assembled by Thomas Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan, and currently contains more than 250 paintings and drawings. It is among the largest collections of 17th century Dutch paintings in the world and represents the most significant privately held collection of Rembrandt and Rembrandt School paintings. The exhibition hopes to shed light on Rembrandt's beginnings, his relationship to his contemporaries and the artistic traditions that flourished in Dutch cities during the country's golden age.

The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts

12 Ulitsa Volkhonka. Metro Kropotkinskaya. www.arts-museum.ru



VDNKH

Exhibition Because the Ball is Round and the Pitch Is Flat

Through October 7

To coincide with the World Cup, a special exhibition on the history of Russian football is now taking place at the Karelia Pavilion, one of the museums in the newly renovated VDNKh, a sprawling Soviet-era park originally built to showcase the U.S.S.R.'s economic achievements. The exhibition takes its title from a popular Russian football saying — "Because the ball is round and the pitch is flat" — and chronicles Russian football's development from 1897 to the present. The exhibition adapts a match's structure, divided into first-half, half-time and second-half sections. Its main objective is to convey "the image of Russian football through historical chronicles, photos, videos and objects from various, mostly private, collections."

VDNKh, Pavilion 67

119 Prospekt Mira. Metro VDNKh. vdnh.ru



IRA POLYARNAYA

Theater Game

June 27

"Game" ("Igra") is a Russian adaptation of "Sleuth," a 1970 play by Anthony Shaffer. Directed by Mikhail Durnenkov, known for some of the most experimental theater productions in Moscow, "Game" is a thriller set in an English manor. Successful crime fiction writer Andrew Wyke meets with the lover of his estranged wife and suggests staging a robbery together. What follows you'll just have to decipher for yourself at the Theater of Nations.

Theater of Nations

3 Petrovsky Pereulok. Metro Chekhovskaya, Pushkinskaya. theatreofnations.ru

Exhibition The Age of Rembrandt and Vermeer: Masterpieces of the Leiden Collection

Through July 22

This exhibition at the Pushkin Museum of Fine



WIKICOMMONS

CULTURAL LIFEHACK

What's With the 1812 Overture and the U.S.?

So Tchaikovsky didn't compose the "1812 Overture" for the United States? No. We realize this comes as a shock to many Americans, who are used to hearing rousing versions of it played, complete with cannon volleys and fireworks, every July 4 to celebrate Independence Day. But it wasn't written about the U.S. victory in the Revolutionary War or even to celebrate the end of the U.S.-British War of 1812.

Tchaikovsky's overture is about the French invasion of Russia that took place in 1812 — clearly a bad year for world peace. He wrote it in 1880 at the urging of his friend Nikolai Rubinstein for the consecration of the Christ the Savior Cathedral, which was built to commemorate the war and was supposed to be completed in 1882. The church bells were to be integrated into the performance, along with cannons that were to be set off at the right dramatic moments. But Emperor Alexander II was assassinated a year later and the piece's triumphant tone was out of place. The overture did debut in 1882, but at the Moscow Arts and Industry Exhibition in a tent outside the cathedral, which was still under construction, without church bells and cannons.

If you listen carefully to the music, you can hear references to Russia and France. The Overture begins with a rendering of an Orthodox Church troparion (hymn) representing peaceful Russia and includes a bit of "La Marseillaise," the French national anthem, when Napoleon's troops advance into the country. At the end you can hear a bit of "God Save the Tsar" before all the church bells and cannons and percussive madness begin and you start looking heavenward at the fireworks display.

Although Tchaikovsky didn't write music for the U.S., he did play a key role in the country's musical history. He was the VIP conductor who led the orchestra on opening night at the New York Music Hall, now known as Carnegie Hall. Tchaikovsky spent several months in the United States in 1891, and judging by his letters and diaries, he liked it very much. "All in all, New York, American customs, American hospitality, the very sights of the city and the unusual comforts of the surroundings — all this is quite to my liking," he wrote. "And if I were younger, I would probably derive great pleasure from staying in this interesting, youthful country."



GLAVCLUB

Concert Valery Syutkin

June 28

Syutkin first came to prominence as the lead singer of Bravo, a true Russian rock and roll veteran group that began in the 1980s. Syutkin sang several songs that are now recognized as Bravo's greatest hits. In 1995 he embarked on a solo career and has changed bands several times since. At this GlavClub concert Syutkin will sing both his old hits and more recent material.

GlavClub

11 Ulitsa Ordzhonikidze. Metro Leninsky Prospekt. glavclub.com



JEWISH MUSEUM

Exhibition Places: One After Another

Through August 19

"Places: One After Another" is the fourth installment in the "Human Condition" project, a series of contemporary art exhibitions curated by Viktor Miziano that focus on the phenomenon of space. The fourth edition is hosted by the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center and features works by prominent Russian artists like Leonid Tishkov and Taus Makhacheva, as well as international artists from Germany, Greece and Morocco.

Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center

11 Ulitsa Obraztsova, Bldg. 1A. Metro Marina Roshcha. jewish-museum.ru

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