

News From Russia: What you Missed Over the Weekend

May 07, 2018



Alexei Navalny **Mikhail Pochuyev / TASS**

Arrested youth

More than 1,500 [mostly young](#) Russians were arrested in two dozen cities during anti-government rallies on the eve of President Vladimir Putin's inauguration, including protest organizer Alexei [Navalny](#), a 12-year-old boy and a [raccoon](#).

Moscow and St. Petersburg [accounted](#) for almost 1,000 of the arrests at the "He's Not Our Tsar" [protests](#) on Saturday, where police at times used violence to disperse crowds.

Chief captive

Navalny later [said](#) he was released from custody, with a court hearing expected for May 11. He faces fines and jail time of up to 30 days for organizing an unsanctioned meeting and disobeying police.

“Apparently the order came down not to ‘jail me before the inauguration,’” Navalny [tweeted](#).

Taxpayers’ whippings

The Tsarist-era Cossack [warriors](#) who were photographed [beating](#) protesters with infamous “[nagaika](#)” whips were [found](#) to have been financed by Moscow’s City Hall.

The mayor’s office reportedly [paid](#) the “Central Cossack Army” 15.9 million rubles (\$254,000) in 2016–2018 for training to ensure public order and security at events including the [FIFA](#) World Cup next month.

Related article: [‘He’s Not Our Tsar’: Russians Protest Putin Ahead of Inauguration](#)

Israeli visit

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has [announced](#) plans to visit Moscow on Wednesday for talks with Putin as Tel Aviv lobbies world powers to “fix or nix” a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

The Kremlin [said](#) that Netanyahu was invited to attend the May 9 Victory Day parade on Red Square, a year after only [one](#) foreign leader took part in the yearly military procession in Moscow.

Loko champs

Lokomotiv Moscow clinched their first Russian Premier League football [championship](#) title in 14 years with a 1–0 win against Zenit St. Petersburg on Saturday.

Portuguese forward Eder's goal in the last minutes clinched the title for Lokomotiv with one game to spare in the race, guaranteeing the Moscow club its third championship win since 2002 and 2004.

Morse defiance

A Russian state media regulator’s blacklist of websites has been [reportedly](#) altered to spell out a slogan against efforts to [ban](#) the Telegram messaging service.

The phrase “Digital Resistance” was [written](#) in Morse Code on the eve of Russia’s Communication Workers’ Day by unknown users, who manipulated blacklisted addresses to make them appear as lines and dots on a graph that tracks the list.

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