

World Cup Stadium Grounds Washed Away by Rain

July 16, 2018



Artyom Tikhonov / Vkontakte

Heavy rainfall has washed away soil outside one of Russia's World Cup stadiums before the football tournament ended on Sunday.

Photos and <u>videos</u> on social media showed clay soil <u>eroding</u> around the \$270-million Volgograd Arena, while footage from inside the venue <u>depicted</u> flooded stalls and staircases. Authorities <u>declared</u> a state of emergency Sunday after heavy rains nearly paralyzed the southern Russian city.

Embed:

"The new stadium's foundation did not let the water through, and rainwater eroded the top layer of fertile soil," the head of the administration <u>told</u> the local Bloknot-volgograd.ru news website.

Russian blogger Ilya Varlamov <u>blamed</u> the flood, which took place on the last day of the World Cup, on subpar drainage systems.

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The city on the Volga River has previously been subject to severe heat, swarms of gnats and vipers <u>crawling</u> toward the stadium during the month-long tournament.

Rain also eroded roads and sidewalks in the World Cup host city of Nizhny Novgorod last week, Varlamov <u>wrote</u>.

The emergency in Volgograd was not all bad news, as at least one resident took advantage of the flood to <u>sail</u> the streets on a floating mattress.

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