

News From Russia: What You Missed on the Weekend

July 24, 2017



Hundreds of demonstrators marched in Moscow on Sunday to protest the government's policies regulating the internet. **Sergei Fadeichev / TASS**

Moscow Marches for Internet Freedom

Protesters took to Moscow's streets on Sunday calling for stringent laws regulating online activity to be repealed. Police [said](#) that about 800 people attended the rally, titled "For a Free Internet," but organizers put the figure as high as 4,000.

The police monitoring website OVD-Info [said](#) two people were detained by police at the rally, but they were quickly released.

Kremlin Fumes Over Sanctions Law in the U.S.

"Extremely negative" was how Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov [reacted](#) to new legislation passed by U.S. Congress which would limit President Trump's ability to lift sanctions on Russia.

The bill now awaits either President Trump's signature or veto.

Russian HIV Hotbeds Are in Siberia

The Siberian cities of Kemerovo, Novosibirsk and Irkutsk have been named the top three hotbeds of the HIV virus by the chief of Russia's health watchdog Rospotrebnadzor.

The state-run TASS news agency [cited](#) Anna Popova as saying Russia is suffering two epidemics: "Drug addiction and HIV," adding the two were linked.

Bad News for Law Students

The head of Sberbank German Gref has predicted the end of the legal profession. During a lecture at a Kaliningrad university, he [argued](#) artificial intelligence would soon replace trained human lawyers. "Comrade lawyers, forget your profession. Last year we fired 450 lawyers," Gref said.

Media Entrepreneur Loses Russian Citizenship

Damian Kudryavtsev, the former unofficial owner and now a board member of The Moscow Times, has had his Russian citizenship [revoked](#). The Federal Migration Service accused Kudryavtsev, an Israeli citizen, of providing inaccurate information on his Russian citizenship application. The entrepreneur argues the measure might be connected to his assets, which includes the business daily Vedomosti.

First Soviet Millionaire Dies

Artyom Tarasov, an opposition politician known as "the Soviet Union's first millionaire," has died at the age of 67, the Interfax news agency [reported](#). The exact time and cause of his death have not been revealed. Tarasov created a stir in 1989 when his two-year old private company, which was among the first cooperatives legalized under Gorbachev's policy of perestroika, paid him 3 million rubles. This was at a time when the average annual salary in the country was about 1,500 rubles (\$2,500).

Brainy Russians in the Lead

Russia's team took home one gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the International Math Olympics for school students in Rio de Janeiro. Overall, the Russian team [took](#) eleventh place, while South Korea's team finished first.

Russian Post to Investigate Theft of Packages in Rostov-on-the-Don

In a YouTube video that went viral, a Russian fisherman [claimed](#) to have found the remains of dozens of letters and packages dumped in long grass near a body of water, accusing Russian Post of stealing the contents of the deliveries. Russian Post said it will investigate the incident.

Probe Launched into Alleged Psych Hospital Abuses

Russia's Investigative Committee has said it is [reinvestigating](#) reported abuses at a psychiatric hospital in the Bryansk region of western Russia, made public by blogger Alexander Kupriyanov. A video the blogger uploaded to YouTube appears to show patients being handcuffed to a fence, among other abuses.

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