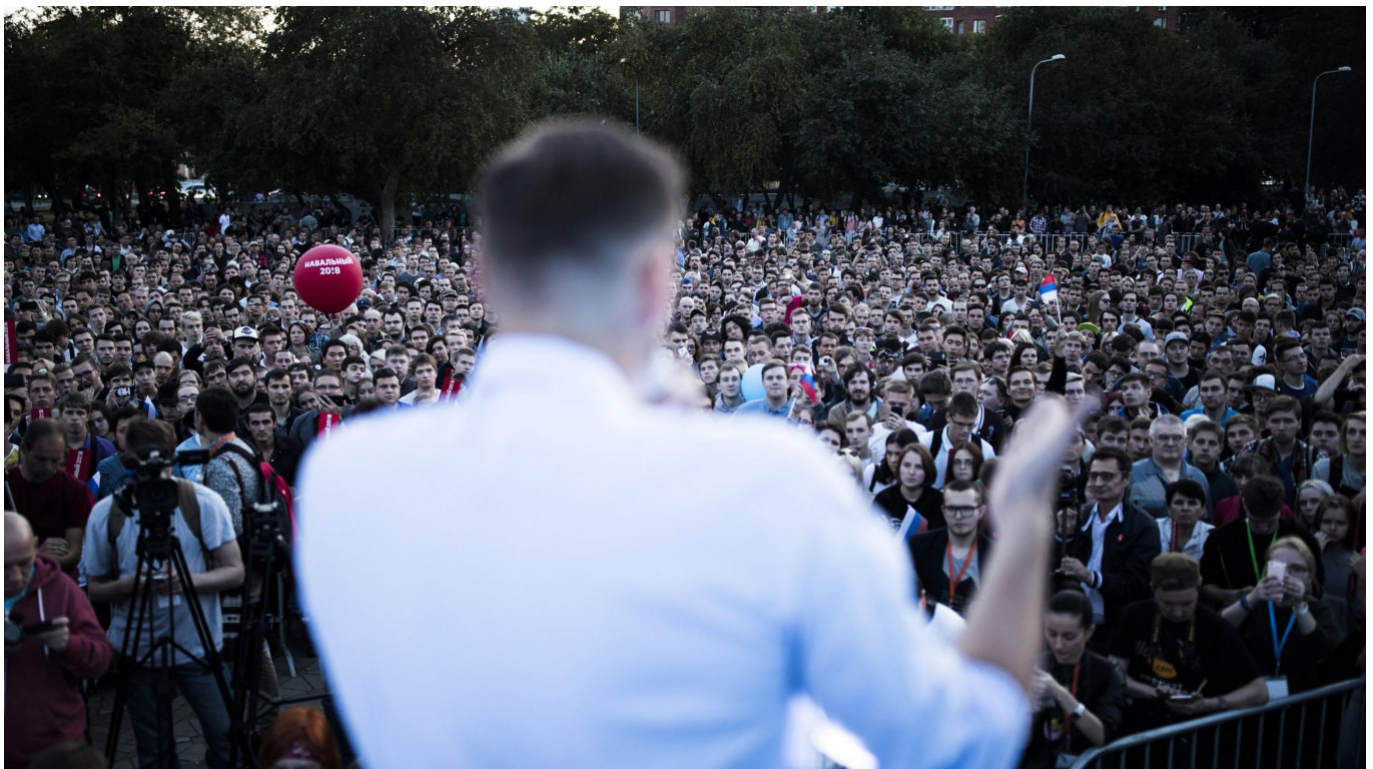


News From Russia: What You Missed on the Weekend

September 18, 2017



Alexei Navalny [navalny.feldman.photo](#)

Bomb Scares

Bomb scares over the weekend [forced](#) more than 22,000 Russians to evacuate malls and hotels in 13 cities across the country. Over 8,000 people in Moscow [emptied](#) buildings after 40 anonymous bomb scares, including Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. Similar threats in St. Petersburg saw 200 [flee](#) several night clubs.

While some law-enforcement officials have [said](#) the “unprecedented” telephone threats are coming from abroad, the first detentions following a week of bomb threats the mass scares have been made but appear to be teenage copy-cats.

Navalny Supporters

Opposition leader and presidential hopeful Alexei Navalny [drew](#) large crowds over the weekend at rallies in the Russian provinces, with an estimated 1,400 rallying

in Yekaterinburg.

Embed:

Омск перед митингом Навального pic.twitter.com/0FEb27xglg

— Feldman (@EvgenyFeldman) [September 17, 2017](#)

Two Navalny supporters were [detained](#) in Volgograd and [five](#) in Rostov, while in Vladivostok, police [threw](#) a Navalny supporter to the ground at an authorized campaign stand.

Embed:

Navalny Staffer Assault on Tape

The Mash Telegram channel [published](#) surveillance camera footage this weekend showing the attack on Nikolai Lyaskin, a staff member of Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Fund (FBK). Lyaskin said he received a blow to the head near the FBK offices on Sept. 15.

Embed:

Police in Hot Water

Six former and current police investigators have been [detained](#) in St. Petersburg on suspicion of having mistreated drug and gambling suspects in detention with electric shocks, cigarette burns and hot water.

Prayer Meeting

Several dozen people [gathered](#) in Omsk to protest Matilda, a controversial film about Tsar Nicholas II's affair with a Polish ballerina. Russia's largest cinema chain has said they will not show the film after receiving threats from Orthodox activists and a spate of arson attacks across the country. Protesters in Omsk said they wanted to defend "traditional values."

Clown Occupation

Anti-war activists calling themselves the "Clown State" [occupied](#) the museum ship Aurora in St. Petersburg in a parody of Russia's Zapad military exercises in Belarus shouting, "We need enemies!"

Embed:

Группа клоунов-милитаристов захватила крейсер Аврора, с требованием

увеличить военный бюджет. «Не служил не клоун», «ОНО воюет»
pic.twitter.com/10pzQd5kqv

— Dave Frenkel (@merr1k) [September 17, 2017](#)

Migrant Slow-Down

Except for those coming from Ukraine, the flow of registered migrants to Russia is at its [lowest](#) since 2011, while more foreign laborers are leaving Russia.

Trump Probe

U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller has [tapped](#) Kyle Freeny, an attorney working on the Justice Department's highest-profile money-laundering case, to join his staff in the probe of possible Trump campaign ties to Russia.

Opposition Maps

Some election-watchers [noticed](#) that the districts where opposition-minded voters elected 270 independent candidates out of 1,500 tend to have better-educated and more affluent residents with expensive boutiques and more bike paths.

Kalashnikov Memorial

In anticipation of Russia's Gunsmith Day on Sept. 19, a nearly eight-meter high statue of Mikhail Kalashnikov holding an AK-47, has been [installed](#) near the Mayakovskaya metro station.

Embed:

Все-таки впятили истукана с автоматом на Садовое.
pic.twitter.com/CcVl5077NF

— Рустем Адагамов (@adagamov) [September 16, 2017](#)

Garbage Music

Saying "Garbage music does not suit our city," conservative State Duma Deputy Vitaly Milonov has [called](#) for executing rappers Oxxxymiron and Gnoyny. The rappers are famous for a [rap battle](#), which currently has more than 23 million views on YouTube.

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