

# News From Russia: What You Missed Over the Weekend

May 25, 2020



Putin congratulated Muslims on Eid al-Fitr. **Alexei Namestnikov / Press Office of the Russian Council of Muftis / TASS**

## Remote vote

President Vladimir Putin has [signed a law](#) allowing Russians to vote by mail or online in a move supporters say will prevent the spread of the coronavirus and opponents claim will open the door to manipulation.

It is not yet clear whether [remote voting](#) will extend to a vote on Putin's constitutional amendments that would allow him to stay in power through 2036. Russian news outlets report that the public vote could take place on June 24.

## Pandemic feast

Putin [congratulated](#) Muslims across Russia on the Eid al-Fitr holiday, a feast marking the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan, calling for charitable donations “under current

conditions of a spreading dangerous disease.”

Authorities in Moscow and Russia’s Muslim-majority regions have canceled prayer gatherings and ordered mosques to [remain closed](#) to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

### **Moscow shootout**

Two people were [injured](#) in a broad-daylight shootout that eyewitnesses caught on video in a southern Moscow residential neighborhood.

At least three people have [reportedly](#) been detained after the incident that Russian media linked to a financial dispute within a funeral home.

### **Embed:**

Shootout in southern moscow today apparently related to the funeral business, says baza <https://t.co/dFtThUS1Vp>

— greg white (@whitegl) [May 24, 2020](#)

### **Hostage situation**

Police have detained a man who [threatened to blow up a bank](#) on a main Moscow thoroughfare.

Authorities did not find explosives on the suspect, who was carrying a bag from a food delivery service and made unspecified demands. Alfa Bank said its employees escaped through an emergency exit, while the suspect’s only hostage [streamed](#) his capture live on social media.

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