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# Police crackdown on nationalists

Two ultra-right leaders were detained this week – but ethnic tension continues to simmer in Moscow

**Lidia Okorokova**  
The Moscow News

**Law enforcement in Moscow remains on high alert due to nationalist activity surrounding football matches – but neither is the North Caucasus diaspora escaping police attention as tensions in the capital continue to simmer.**

Two nationalist leaders were arrested in the centre of Moscow on

Wednesday night as the authorities tried to prevent unrest prior to the match between CSKA and Spartak at Luzhniki stadium.

Wednesday night was the six-month anniversary of the December 11 race riot on Manezhnaya Square near the Kremlin. The ultra-right movement marked it by gathering on Manezhnaya and attempting to give a press conference dedicated to the memory of slain football fan

Yegor Sviridov. Sviridov was shot to death last December in the course of an altercation with migrants from the North Caucasus – his death sparked protest actions and riots.

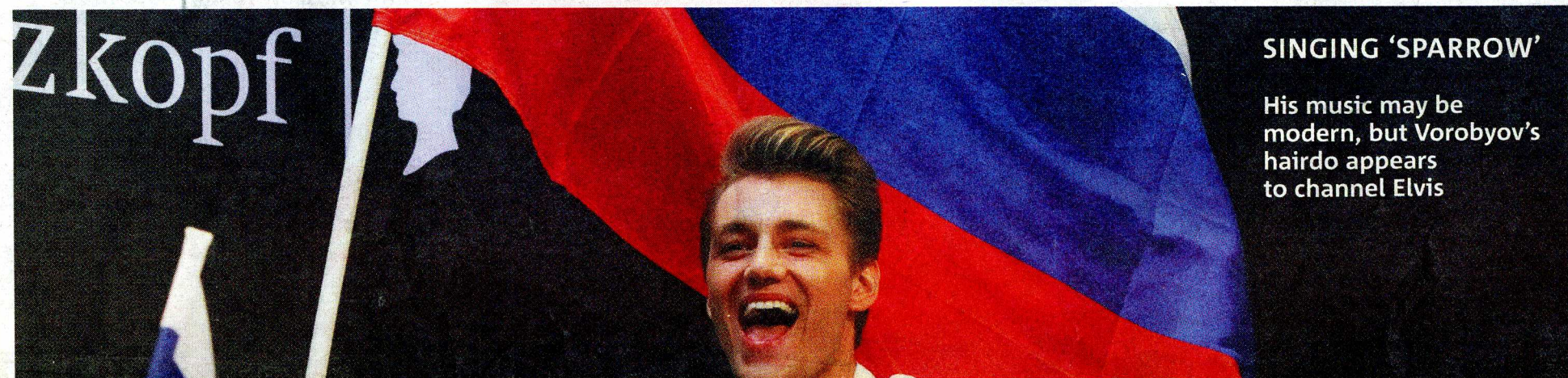
The nationalists claimed that the gathering was meant to be peaceful, but media reports noted that football fans in the metro nearby were chanting racist slogans. Dmitry Demushkin, leader of banned nationalist group Slavyansky Soyuz, as well as fascist

leader Georgy Borovikov were both arrested. According to the LiveJournal blog of Borovikov's group, Pamyat, Wednesday's activities were meant as a joint press conference of Russia's nationalist groups, united under the umbrella of a new coalition, Russkiye.

According to RIA Novosti, Borovikov was arrested right after he arrived on Manezhnaya Square and tried to speak to reporters, while Demushkin was arrested en route.

A heavy presence of OMON riot police on Manezhnaya Square was also noted by observers.

"The police acted in a way that was very lawless, they not only arrested Demushkin, but also beat him up – this shows how the authorities treat any kind of citizen activity in Moscow," Vladimir Tor, member of nationalist group Russkoye Obshchestvennoye Dvizheniye, told The Moscow News. ▶ [page 3](#)



**SINGING 'SPARROW'**

His music may be modern, but Vorobyov's hairdo appears to channel Elvis



# Russia tunes in to kitschy Eurovision

Alexei 'Sparrow' Vorobyov hopes to score big in the final

**Alina Lobzina**  
The Moscow News

Russia's Eurovision fans are hoping to see a new hero step into the sparkling shoes of Dima Bilan, as this year's Eurovision Song Contest draws close – and certain Moscow night-spots are pulling out the stops for this event.

Alexei Vorobyov, or Alex Sparrow as he introduces himself to international audiences, has made it through the semi-finals and is set to appear on stage for the final on Saturday.

And in competing for votes and prestige-points Vorobyov wants to give his song every advantage it can get. The hopeful songster is planning a repertoire of complicated

choreography and mid-song stunts.

Jubilant back-flips at the end of Tuesday's performance went down well with the crowds, augmented by joyous expletives as his semi-finals score were announced.

It was the "reaction of a normal Russian man", as Vorobyov's manager Katerina von Gechmen-Waldek told the BBC Russian service. ▶ [page 3](#)

## Television

### Stirlitz lives!



▶ [page 13](#)

## Feature

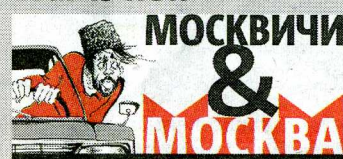
### Museums after dark

Half a million people are expected to turn out for the Night at the Museum festival in Moscow

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## Community

### War is hell



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# Day & Night

The week in arts & entertainment



Courtesy of MDR

Sergei Shestakov. From the series 'Trip to the Future'. 2010-2011

Courtesy of MDF



Sergei Shestakov. From the series 'Trip to the Future'. 2010-2011

**Elena Kirillova**  
The Moscow News

*'Chernobyl. 25 Years Later'*  
Through May 29  
at the Multimedia Art Museum,  
Moscow,  
16 Ul. Ostozhenka,  
m. Kropotkinskaya,  
www.mdf.ru  
Open Tue.-Sun. noon-9pm  
Tickets 250 roubles

**W**hen the Multimedia Art Museum was preparing this exhibition in memory of the Chernobyl tragedy, which took place 25 years ago on April 26, the Fukushima disaster had not yet occurred. Now the name of Sergei Shestakov's photographic series – taken from the name of a children's book he found in one of the half-ruined kindergartens –

sounds really grim: "Trip to the Future".

Pripyat, the abandoned city near the Chernobyl power plant, has engrossed photographers by its creepiness and mystery ever since the nuclear accident. But to Shestakov, who has been to the Chernobyl exclusion zone twice and even spent a night there, it is the first stop in his new project about technogenic catastrophes, which he hopes will make people rethink their doings.

Apart from photographs, the exhibition features documentaries made right after the disaster and an organ symphony by Mikael Tariverdiev as an impressive soundtrack.

Photos from Pripyat are reminiscent of horror movies: haunted corridors, dolls' heads lying in garbage, eerily empty playgrounds. A nursery with books thrown from the shelves and wide open wardrobe gives you chills, making you imagine a family leaving their nice, warm home for

good, trying to escape some invisible, dreadful monster. Gas masks which belonged to "liquidators", people who were removing the consequences of Chernobyl disaster straight after it happened, make you imagine how many of them suffered and died after that and what were they thinking while working there.

As Olga Sviblova, the curator of the exhibition, said at the exhibition's press-conference, these photos make you envisage history before and after them.

In these photos you almost hear the sound of silence which Shestakov described: "I and my partner wandered the empty city, constantly expecting to hear the sound of a car or children's laughter, or steps of a passer-by... But it was complete and utter silence, never disturbed even by birds. It seemed surreal. And the weirdest part of it was not that it couldn't be happening, but that it should not". ■



Sergei Shestakov. From t

Courtesy of MDF

Inside

Fatal attraction  
Follow the v  
of a fem  
oper

Fatal

What's on