



Moscow in denial, women make history and fishing for bikes

Russia's "special operation" in Ukraine began at the tail end of winter with the Kremlin expecting a quick victory. But with summer at its height and the war dragging on, our Moscow correspondent Andrew Roth took the temperature on the streets of the Russian capital. The majority of Muscovites he talked to were enjoying the good weather and doing their best to turn a blind eye to the mounting casualties, dodge intergenerational arguments over the invasion and focus on having fun in the new normal of life without western products.
The big story [Page 10](#) →

Women's football has firmly staked its place as an equal on the pitch in the UK, with the England team doing what their male counterparts have dreamed of for 56 long years and triumphing in a major international tournament. It is sobering to remember that only half a century ago, the FA's ban on women and girls playing still stood. In the exhilaration of Sunday's win against Germany, our football reporters look ahead to what the team and the women's game can achieve. Fans of the women's game hope for change from grassroots up and parity with men.
Spotlight [Page 15](#) →

We've all seen bicycle skeletons poking up from muddy stretches of water; it's a depressing sight and it got the writer of our main feature, Jody Rosen, thinking. His investigation of the fatal attraction between canals and bikes takes readers to watery cycle graveyards in Paris, Amsterdam and China to find out what's behind this mass drowning.
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On the cover
Life in Moscow goes on as normal as Russians stroll across its iconic centre point, Red Square. What Vladimir Putin and his closest associates, quartered in the Kremlin, which borders the landmark, are thinking about the progress of the war in Ukraine is not something that troubles ordinary Muscovites.
Photograph: Elena Aleksandrovna Ermakova