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On the cover Andrew Roth's big story feature explains how Russian domestic politics are "curated" to provide an illusion of choice while delivering an outcome suitable to the Kremlin: "Much of that is patriotic content, just one part of the efforts at 'pre-rigging' the elections to help ensure a broad turnout and reduce the need for cruder forms of manipulation." *Cover: Guardian Design; Mikhail Metzel/Sputnik/Reuters* 

## eek in the life of the world