

Putin's play, Suisse secrets and Orkney's standing stones

After months of troop build-ups, an isolated and angry Vladimir Putin made his move this week by ordering Russian forces over the Ukrainian border into the disputed Donbas region. Amid fears the situation could quickly lead to a calamitous war, attention turned to how Ukraine - and the wider world - would respond, with hefty sanctions expected against Moscow. Julian Borger, Andrew Roth and Shaun Walker lead our coverage of the fast-deteriorating picture.

The big story [Page 10](#) →

Our cover story this week focuses on the murky world of Swiss banking, after a massive document leak shed light on the secret accounts held by Credit Suisse on behalf of convicted criminals, fraudsters and corrupt politicians. Our spotlight coverage offers just a taste of this huge investigation, with much more on the Guardian's website.

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Mazar-i-Sharif was the most secular and liberal of Afghan cities, but 20 years of corruption and misrule left it ripe for retaking by the Taliban. Ghaith Abdul-Ahad spoke to some of its residents and asked, will anything be different this time?

Return of the Taliban [Page 34](#) →

In Culture, Hadley Freeman meets the indefatigable Margaret Atwood and finds the Canadian author as strident as ever in her views. Then, to coincide with a major new London exhibition about neolithic Britain, Charlotte Higgins travels to the Scottish island of Orkney to explore its beautiful, mysterious standing stones.

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On the cover

As Paul Lewis writes this week, publishing the Suisse secrets leaks has been a balancing exercise. "On one side: personal issues of privacy, confidentiality and data protection, and a Swiss banking secrecy law that could be used to censor reporting. On the other: the public's right to know about wrongdoing."

Illustration: Guardian Design

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