

Remarkable protests, another Cop summit and music in full colour

Discontent over China's continuing policy of zero-Covid suppression came to a head last weekend in a series of unprecedented protests across the country. Remarkable just for happening at all in a state where such behaviour is rarely tolerated, the civil disobedience seemed to have been smothered by police within a couple of days. Even so it revealed to the world signs of a hitherto unseen fracture in China's totalitarian political system.

Helen Davidson and Verna Yu report on the protests and the creativity used to express anger - but diplomatic editor Patrick Wintour warns that China's strongarm leader, Xi Jinping, is unlikely to tolerate damage to his reputation for long.

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From one Cop to another: hot on the heels of the recent climate conference comes this month's global summit on biodiversity, which is being held in Montreal. To set the scene, Phoebe Weston explains how the damage done to the world's biodiversity is a tale of decline spanning thousands of years. Can the world seize its chance to change the narrative at Cop15?

Humans v nature [Page 34](#) →

With five Grammy awards off the back of four albums spanning everything from folk to jazz and pop, the British multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier is a global phenomenon. But despite being feted by music royalty including Stormzy, Chris Martin and Herbie Hancock, the 28-year-old has kept a relatively low profile. Ammar Kalia takes a trip into Collier's colourful, polyharmonic world of quarter-tones and non-standardised pitch.

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On the cover

This week's cover design reflects the power of blank paper in a country where freedom of expression is curtailed. As one Beijing resident said: "We launched the blank paper remembrance movement. Do we say anything on the paper? No. All accusations are in our hearts. All thoughts are in our hearts."

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