

A plea for outside help, Wagner's warning and Andrew Tate exposed

The scale of the humanitarian crisis, and the death toll from the two earthquakes that levelled swathes of southern Turkey and northern Syria, is difficult to contemplate. Our team on the ground reports how, as the week progressed, work turned from searching for survivors to worrying about how to bury the dead and care for people living among the rubble in freezing winter conditions. As well as coverage of the quake's aftermath in Turkey, our big story hears from the Syrian rebel leader pleading for outside help as the political situation in Idlib province has hampered aid efforts.
The big story [Page 10](#) →

Our coverage of the war in Ukraine this week focuses on the Wagner mercenary group. According to its leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, it could take two years to achieve Moscow's objectives, even as fighting on the frontline heats up. We also hear how the return home to Russia of its prisoner conscripts - promised freedom if they survived for six months - is causing fear among the victims of their violent civilian crimes.
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This week's main feature goes in search of Andrew Tate, the misogynist social media influencer, who is behind bars in Romania and awaiting trial on trafficking charges. A trip to Bucharest finds that Tate's hyped super-rich lifestyle of fast cars and girls is less glamorous than portrayed and that his boasts of business success as casino owner and webcam kingpin ring hollow.
Smoke and mirrors [Page 34](#) →



On the cover
As the number of people killed in the earthquakes that struck southern Turkey and northern Syria on 6 February has continued to rise inexorably, relief efforts turned from rescue to recovering the bodies of the many thousands who have died. This image from Hatay, Turkey, conveys the absolute devastation in the region.
Photograph: Xinhua/Rex/Shutterstock



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