

Death of Prigozhin, India's lunar success and Zadie returns

The sudden and startling death of an opponent of Vladimir Putin is hardly a new trope. In the case of Yevgeny Prigozhin, leader of a failed rebellion against the Russian president in June who died in a suspicious-looking plane crash last Wednesday, along with nine others, the main question was: what took Putin so long? Andrew Roth explores what the legacy of the Wagner warlord might be for Russia - which may well hinge on Putin himself and how the war in Ukraine turns out.

Pjotr Sauer looks at the array of methods used to dispose of Putin's political enemies in the past, while Dino Mahtani asks what will happen to Wagner group's clandestine operations in Africa now its enigmatic boss is no longer in the picture.

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India's moon landing last week was a moment to savour for the country, and not just because it came days after a botched attempt by the Russians. Science editor Ian Sample explains why the landing, near the moon's south pole, could be another giant leap for space exploration.

Also this week, don't miss Stephen Walker's fantastic feature about the awkwardness of life on the International Space Station since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

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The novelist Zadie Smith is known for her dislike of giving interviews. But, as her historical novel, *The Fraud*, hits the bookshelves, she talks to Lisa Allardice about why she and her family have returned to her old literary stomping ground of north London after 17 years overseas.

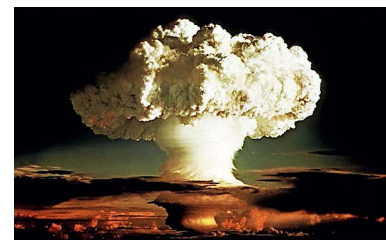
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On the cover

Yevgeny Prigozhin's private jet crashed last Wednesday outside Moscow, reportedly killing all 10 passengers including several Wagner mercenary group officials. Russia has denied any involvement, though a preliminary US intelligence assessment concluded that an intentional explosion caused the crash.

Illustration: Guardian Design



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