



# Israel-Gaza spirals, Russia recruits Serbs, and the Stones roll on

**As events in Gaza continue to dominate headlines**, we focus this week on the frantic diplomatic efforts to prevent the crisis from spiralling into a wider global conflict. Jason Burke traces the possible route to a wider war or, in the other direction, to at least a pause in hostilities.

Elsewhere, Ruth Michaelson hears from terrified Gazans who have been pushed south, while Emma Graham-Harrison and Julian Borger consider the likely consequences of a “victorious” Israeli ground offensive.

There’s also a report on rising antisemitism against Jewish people across Europe since the 7 October Hamas terror attack on Israel and the subsequent Israeli bombardment of Gaza. And in the Opinion section, Jonathan Freedland and Nesrine Malik both offer powerful perspectives on the conflict.

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**With much attention ranged on the Middle East**, the war in Ukraine has fallen a little from the spotlight. Pjotr Sauer reports from Belgrade, where some young Serbs have been signing up to fight for Russia despite the risk of prosecution at home.

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**Tributes were paid this week after the death of Sir Bobby Charlton**, the former Manchester United and England football legend. Paul Wilson remembers a player who became synonymous with the English game.

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**In Culture, as the Rolling Stones release their first album of new material for 18 years**, frontman Mick Jagger tells Ben Beaumont-Thomas about life and fatherhood at 80, as well as missing the band’s drummer Charlie Watts, who died in 2021.

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**On the cover** Can world leaders act to prevent a regional crisis from spinning into a global one? As Jason Burke writes: “The motives and moves of presidents, prime ministers, priests, humanitarians, protesters, influencers, spies, diplomats and many others may vary - but foremost for many is the very real fear of the consequences for all of us of failure.”

*Illustration: Guardian Design*



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