



AfD's shocking 'masterplan', Middle East conflict spreads, and Lineker's many opinions

The Alternative für Deutschland party was founded a decade ago by German anti-euro economists but its political direction has tracked sharply right since then, a fact amply illustrated by revelations that AfD politicians have met with neo-Nazi groups to discuss plans for mass deportations, should the party gain power.

The news has sparked mass protests in Germany and even calls to ban the AfD. But, as Philip Oltermann and Kate Connolly report, with support for the party holding firm, any moves to prohibit the AfD could be a major political gamble.

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Events in the Middle East continue to unfold at a bewildering pace, with pockets of conflict opening up across the region. Diplomatic editor Patrick Wintour rounds up a week of flashpoints and assesses increasingly slim hopes for controlling the situation. And Oliver Holmes provides a revealing profile of Yemen, one of the most unchanging and least visited countries in the Middle East.

The big story [Page 10](#) →

Our long-read features take somewhat divergent paths this week. First, Charlotte Edwardes meets Gary Lineker, the former England footballer turned TV presenter whose penchant for regularly airing his liberal worldviews has made him public enemy No 1 for Britain's anti-woke brigade.

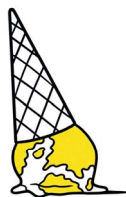
Then, Chananya Groner unearths a remarkable story of factionalism and messianic fervour within New York's Hasidic Jewish community, stretching back 30 years, which led to secret tunnels recently being discovered beneath a Brooklyn synagogue.

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And in Culture, Charlotte Higgins meets the classical musicians Dalia Stasevska and Joshua Bell, who are resurrecting a long-forgotten Ukrainian concerto as a gesture of defiance to Russia.

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On the cover The challenge in conveying the secret agenda of Germany's rightwing AfD party was one of balance, explains illustrator Pete Reynolds. "In portraying a hidden danger there must exist a tension between hiding the danger and revealing it," says Pete. "It's a cover, so the idea must be communicated with some immediacy, yet there is a need for delayed recognition. The wolf must be seen, but not straight away." *Illustration: Pete Reynolds*



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