

# Behind the Headlines

## Annotated Front Page

### ▼ Skyline

This panel helps to market the paper by tempting readers inside. It usually tells readers about stories in other parts of the paper.



## The great Christmas taste test

Mince pies, cheese, chutney, crisps and much more: your guide to serving up delicious party food



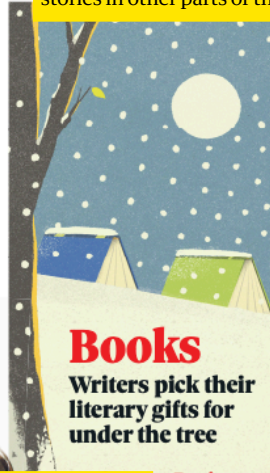
### ▼ Masthead

A specially designed logo showing the name of the newspaper.

### ▼ Date and Price

### ▼ Date and Price

Costs of the paper are covered by a combination of the cover price and advertising.



### Film Hollywood actor Peter Sarsgaard speaks his mind

In the magazine



# The Observer

From £2.30 for subscribers  
www.observer.co.uk  
Sunday 8 December 2024  
£4.00

## Syrian rebels encircle capital amid denials Assad has fled

### ▲ Headline

The biggest headline on the page is called the "main splash". This is a serious story so no jokes are made in the headline. Headlines are written by subeditors.

### William Christou

Beirut

Syrian opposition forces began to encircle the capital city of Damascus last night after a lightning offensive brought rebel factions to Bashar al-Assad's doorstep and led the president's office to deny that he had already fled the country.

The advance came just a week after Islamist insurgents led by Hayat

al-Sham (HTS) retook Aleppo in northern Syria, inspiring rebel factions all across the country to rise up against the Syrian army.

Overnight, opposition factions in the southern provinces of Daraa and Sweida routed government forces and took control over wide swathes of the districts. By the afternoon, opposition forces had taken control of the ancient city of Latakia.

As rebels advanced from the south and east towards the capital, forces led by HTS began fighting the Syrian army in Homs. The central western city of Latakia is a key port.

As rebels advanced from the south and east towards the capital, forces led by HTS began fighting the Syrian army in Homs. The central western city of Latakia is a key port. The advance came just a week after Islamist insurgents led by Hayat

### ► Byline

The name of the writer (s). Sometimes their job title or where they are writing from is included.

The name of the writer (s). Sometimes their job title or where they are writing from is included. If Homs were to fall to rebels, the

Continued on page 4 >>

### Entente ... for now



### ▼ Caption

Captions describe the photograph and link it to the news story. Often they include the photographer's name.

Donald Trump with Presidents Macron and Zelenskyy in Paris for the triumphant reopening of Notre Dame yesterday following its restoration after a devastating blaze five years ago (report, pages 22-23). Aurélien Morissard/AP

## Million skip meals in winter fuel benefit crisis

### Michael Savage Policy Editor

The row over the government's decision to slash winter fuel payments is set to be reignited after new evidence revealed that more than 1 million older people are skipping meals because of financial concerns.

The new study also suggested that millions are already cutting down on their heating, with warnings about the impact on the NHS. A spike in

### Page Furniture

Anything on the page which is in addition to the article itself.

whelmed" with claims, the Observer has been told.

With Storm Darragh ravaging large parts of Britain this weekend, more than 7 million pensioners say they are turning down their heating or reducing the hours they turn it on to help

them cope financially. The research by the Age UK charity also estimates that the figure includes two-thirds of those over 66 who are living with long-term health conditions.

More than 1 million people aged 66 or over according to the research are struggling with an energy crisis.

### ▼ Turn

Front page stories often continue elsewhere in the paper.

Continued on page 6 >>

### ◀ Edition Dots

We print up to three different editions per night. One dot means this is the first edition. During elections and special events, we may print up to five editions.