

News in brief

◆ **Indian tax officers** searched the BBC's bureaus in New Delhi and Mumbai yesterday, the British broadcaster said. "The Income Tax Authorities are currently at the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai and we are fully cooperating. We hope to have this situation resolved as soon as possible," the BBC said in a statement. An Income Tax Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a "credible survey operation was ongoing" and that the department would not be able to share details. The department did not respond to a Reuters email seeking comment. Britain's Foreign Office said it was closely monitoring reports of tax surveys conducted at the BBC's offices.



India tax officers search BBC offices

◆ **Former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley** said yesterday that she will seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, putting her at odds with one-time boss Donald Trump, the ex-president also seeking to win back the White House. "I'm Nikki Haley and I'm running for president," Haley said in a video that her team sent out by email. Haley, a former South Carolina governor who served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Trump, will lay out her campaign plans in a speech in Charleston, South Carolina, on Wednesday. She became Trump's first direct challenger in a Republican field expected to grow in coming weeks and months.



Nikki Haley launches 2024 Republican presidential bid, first challenge to Trump

◆ **The World Health Organization** is increasing its epidemiological surveillance in Equatorial Guinea after the country confirmed its first outbreak of the Marburg virus, a WHO official said yesterday. The small Central African country has so far reported nine deaths as well as 16 suspected cases of Marburg virus disease, with symptoms including fever, fatigue and blood-stained vomit and diarrhea, according to the WHO. "Surveillance in the field has been intensified," said George Ameh, WHO's country representative in Equatorial Guinea. "Contact tracing, as you know, is a cornerstone of the response. We have...redeployed the COVID-19 teams that were there for contact tracing and quickly retrofitted them to really help us out." Equatorial Guinea quarantined more than 200 people and restricted movement last week in its Kie-Ntem province after detecting an unknown hemorrhagic fever. The country officially declared its first outbreak of Marburg virus disease on Monday.



WHO increasing health surveillance after Equatorial Guinea finds Marburg virus

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Part of Croatia's heart-shaped island up for sale



A drone picture taken from above near Biograd na Moru shows Island Galesnjak, Croatia

Reuters | Galesnjak, Croatia

Part of Croatia's unique heart-shaped Adriatic islet nicknamed by tourists the Island of Love is up for sale. The uninhabited islet of Galesnjak in the Pasman channel is one of the most recognizable Croatian islets and part of it is being offered to prospective buyers for development. "Over a million photos per year are made on and around the islet and I think its popularity is really high," said Silvestro Kardum, a representative for the owner of the lot of land offered for sale. There are no hotels, villas, or restaurants on the islet, but many celebrities and their yachts frequent Galesnjak every summer. "Beyonce had her 39th

birthday party on the islet and she's there several days or even weeks every year, Michael Jordan was there last year, Jeff Bezos as well, there's no lack of celebrities in that area," Kardum said. Proceeds from the sale would be invested elsewhere in the local community, he said. "The island has an area of 142,000 square meters and slightly over 40,000 square meters is up for sale for the price of 13 million euros," he said, adding that potential buyers are calling every day. In 2019, scientists from the Department of Archaeology of Croatia's University of Zadar discovered traces of human habitation dating back 7,000 years ago.

Seven pulled from Turkey's rubble, millions need hum

- **Death toll 31,974 in Turkey, more than 5,800 in Syria**
- **Rescue phase 'coming to a close', says UN in Syria**

Reuters | Turkey, Kahramanmaras

Seven survivors were rescued from the rubble in Turkey yesterday, more than a week after a devastating earthquake, as the focus of the aid effort shifted to helping people now struggling without shelter or enough food in the bitter cold. The disaster, with a combined death toll in Turkey and neighbouring Syria exceeding 37,000, has ravaged cities in both countries, leaving many survivors homeless in near-freezing winter



Muhammed Cafer Cetin, a 18-year-old earthquake survivor, is rescued from the rubble of a building some 198 hours after last week's devastating earthquake, in Adiyaman, Turkey



People sit as others search amid the rubble in Kahramanmaras, Turkey

The seven rescued on Tuesday included two brothers, aged 17 and 21, pulled from an apartment block in Kahramanmaras province, and a woman rescued from the rubble of a building in the southern Turkish city of Antakya, Turkish media said.

But UN authorities have said the rescue phase was coming to a close, with the focus turning to shelter, food and schooling, as those who survived were struggling. "People are suffering a lot. We applied to receive tent, aid or something but until now we didn't receive anything," said Has-

san Saimoua, a refugee staying with his family in a playground in Turkey's southeastern city of Gaziantep. "The needs are huge, increasing by the hour," said Hans Henri P. Kluge, the World Health Organization's director for Europe. "Some 26 million people across

Kremlin moves to rein in Russian mercenary boss Prigozhin



Evgeny Prigozhin (L) assists Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin during a dinner with foreign scholars and journalists at the restaurant Cheval Blanc on the premises of an equestrian complex outside Moscow

- **Mercenary boss reins in public criticism of top brass**
- **State media told to stop promoting him and his group**
- **Prigozhin loses right to recruit convicts**
- **Ex-Kremlin adviser says politics off limits for Prigozhin**

Reuters

His private army is pushing hard to give Russia a battlefield win in Ukraine, but mounting evidence suggests the Kremlin has moved to curb what it sees as the excessive political clout of Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of Russia's Wagner mercenary group. Prigozhin, a 61-year-old ex-convict, has grabbed headlines in recent months over his bloody role in Ukraine and is sometimes portrayed in the West as a real-life James Bond villain. Shaven-headed and fond of coarse language, he has made a splash in Russian-language media too where he has revelled in being sanctioned by the West, publicly insulted Russia's top military brass,

tried to parlay battlefield success into Kremlin favour, and detailed his recruitment of tens of thousands of convicts for his private army. His profile became so prominent that allies and analysts began speculating he was angling for an official job or career in politics. There is growing evidence now though that the Kremlin has moved to nip such speculation in the bud, ordering Prigozhin to halt his public criticism of the defence ministry while advising state media to stop mentioning him or Wagner by name. Prigozhin confirmed last week he had also been stripped of the right to recruit convicts from prisons - a key pillar of his nascent political influence and one which has helped his forces make small but steady gains in eastern Ukraine where they appear to be inching closer to capturing the city of Bakhmut. Olga Romanova, director of a prisoner rights group, said the Ministry of Defence had taken over convict recruitment earlier this year. The ministry has not confirmed that. "The position of the (Kremlin) political bloc is not to let him into politics. They are a little afraid of him and find him an inconvenient person," Sergei Markov, a former Kremlin adviser who remains close to the authorities, told Reuters.

In Michigan shooting, po

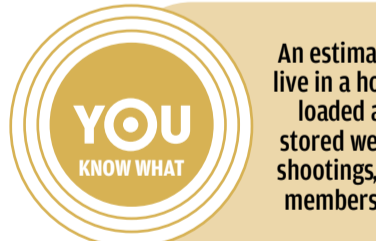
- **Three victims were killed and five were taken to a hospital**
- **The gunman was confirmed dead**
- **Students, faculty and residents in surrounding off-campus neighborhoods of East Lansing had been told by authorities to "shelter in place"**

Reuters | East Lansing, Mich.

Police searched yesterday for the motive that caused a gunman to go on a shooting rampage at Michigan State University that left three people dead and five injured before an hours-long manhunt ended with the suspect's death. The 43-year-old gunman had no known affiliation to the university police said at a news briefing on Tuesday, more than five hours after the violence began on the East Lansing campus, about



Police officers surround a scene where the East Lansing, Michigan, US



An estimate live in a ho loaded a stored we shootings, members

90 miles northwest of Detroit. "We have no idea why he came to campus to do this tonight," Chris Rozman, interim deputy chief of the university police, told reporters. Details about the sequence of

Banksy's 'Valentine's day ma

Reuters | Margate, England

British street artist Banksy confirmed a new mural showing a 1950s housewife with a swollen eye apparently pushing a man into an abandoned chest freezer was his work early on Valentine's Day, just hours before the appliance was removed. The artwork, which Banksy titled 'Valentine's day mas-cara' on his website, appeared in the seaside town of Margate,



An artwork depicting violence against wor