

News in brief

◆ **The governor of Indiana**

arrived in Taipei yesterday, becoming the latest US official to visit Taiwan and defying pressure from China for such trips not to happen. China, which claims democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory despite the Taipei government's strong objections, has been carrying out war games and drills near Taiwan since U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made a two-day visit to Taipei earlier this month. Last week a second group of U.S. lawmakers visited Taiwan. Governor Eric Holcomb tweeted that he would also be visiting South Korea, while Taiwan's presidential office said he would meet President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday morning. "I'm energised to spend this week building new relationships, reinforcing long time ones and strengthening key sector partnerships with Taiwan and South Korea," Holcomb tweeted.



**Indiana governor latest US official to visit Taiwan**

◆ **Russia said yesterday** that its Kalibr missiles had destroyed an ammunition depot containing missiles for US-made HIMARS rocket in Ukraine's southeastern Odesa region, while Kyiv said a granary had been hit. Russia's defence ministry said sea-based Kalibr missiles had destroyed a depot that also housed Western-made anti-aircraft systems. A spokesman for Odesa's regional administration said two missiles had been shot down over the sea, but that three had struck agricultural targets. There were no casualties, the spokesman, Serhiy Bratchuk, said on Telegram. An explosives expert and investigators were working at the granary, he said.

**Russian missiles strike Ukraine's Odesa region**

◆ **Taiwan's defence ministry** said 12 Chinese aircraft and five Chinese ships were detected operating around Taiwan on Sunday, including five aircraft that crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, as Beijing continued military activities near the island. China has been carrying out drills near Taiwan, which it claims as Chinese territory despite strong objections from the government in Taipei, since earlier this month following a visit to the island by U.S. House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi.



**Taiwan says five Chinese aircraft crossed Taiwan Strait median line**

◆ **Japan is considering** the deployment of 1,000 long-range cruise missiles to boost its counterattack capability against China, the Yomiuri newspaper reported yesterday. The missiles would be existing arms modified to extend their range from 100 km (62 miles) to 1,000 km, the daily said, citing government sources. The arms, launched by ships or aircraft, would be stationed mainly around the southern Nansei islands and capable of reaching the coastal areas of North Korea and China, the Yomiuri said. Representatives from Japan's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report. Japan, which interprets its war-renouncing postwar constitution to mean it may use its military only for self-defense, has stepped up its military spending and taken a more assertive strategy in recent years. But it has refrained from deploying long-range missiles, among its limits on weapons that can strike targets on foreign soil.

**Japan considers deploying long-range missiles to counter China, Yomiuri reports**

**COVID-19 Countries worst affected**

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	95,331,020	1,065,555	600,699,459
2 India	44,339,429	527,332	
3 France	34,339,792	153,501	Deaths
4 Brazil	34,279,785	682,560	
5 Germany	31,808,179	146,504	Recovered:
6 UK	23,460,787	187,018	
7 S. Korea	22,240,331	26,044	574,841,002
8 Italy	21,630,998	174,659	
9 Russia	19,117,343	383,560	New cases
10 Japan	16,921,653	36,780	
11 Turkey	16,671,848	100,400	+470,327
12 Spain	13,314,764	112,128	
13 Vietnam	11,383,819	43,105	New deaths
14 Australia	9,912,866	13,356	

**Middle East**

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	812,624	+74	9,277	+1	799,691	3,656
UAE	1,009,776	+660	2,341		988,147	19,288
Kuwait	656,393		2,562		653,046	785
Oman	397,574		4,260		384,669	8,645
Qatar	423,772	+654	681		418,191	4,900

# Somali forces end 30-

At least 21 killed, 117 injured; ma

Reuters | Mogadishu

Somali forces have ended a deadly siege at a hotel in the capital Mogadishu which saw more than 20 people killed and dozens of hostages freed, authorities said yesterday.

Elite armed forces in the Horn-of-Africa nation battled al Qaeda-linked militants for 30 hours, after the jihadists blasted and shot their way into the Hayat Hotel on Friday evening.

"We have confirmed so far 21 dead people and 117 others injured," Ali Haji, the minister for health, told national broadcaster SNTV.

"It is possible there were corpses that were not taken to hospitals but buried by relatives. The death toll and the casualties are

Somali security officers drive past a section of Hotel Hayat, the scene of an al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab group militant attack in Mogadishu, Somalia



based on the figure taken to hospitals," the minister added.

The al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab group, which has been fighting to topple the Somali government for more than a decade, claimed responsibility for the attack.

It wants to establish its own rule based on a strict interpreta-

tion of Islamic law.

Friday's attack at the Hayat, a hotel popular with lawmakers and other government officials, was the first major incident since President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud took office in May.

"This was the worst hotel siege we have seen," said Ahmed, a po-

## Albania investigates military factory intruders from Russia and Ukraine



An Albanian Military Force member use uses binoculars in Kucova Air Base in Kucova, Albania

Reuters | Tirana

Albania said yesterday it was investigating why two Russians and a Ukrainian had tried to enter a military factory.

The defence ministry said late on Saturday that two of its soldiers had been slightly injured while detaining a 24-year-old man from Russia who had entered the grounds of the Gramsh military factory and was trying to take photos. He resisted arrest and used spray against the soldiers.

Two others, a 33-year-old Russian woman and a Ukrainian man aged 25, were arrested nearby.

Defence Minister Niko Peleshi said on Sunday it was too early to be sure about the motive but referred to geopolitics - apparently indicating a possible link to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has been criticised by the Albanian government.

"In view of the broad regional context and the geopolitical context, this cannot be dismissed as just as an ordinary, civilian incident, but we cannot rush to conclusions," he said after visiting the injured soldiers in hospital.

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said on Saturday the three individuals were "suspected of espionage", without giving any further details.

Tirana-based media said the three suspects were bloggers who often visited abandoned military bases and other big plants in different countries.

Peleshi said the investigation would show if they were bloggers and what their motives were. When Albania was under communist rule, the Gramsh plant produced Russian-designed AK 47 rifles.

The ministry's website says the plant now provides manufacturing services for the defence industry.

## Daughter of Russian ideologue killed

Reuters

The daughter of an ultra-nationalist Russian ideologue who advocates Russia absorbing Ukraine was killed in a suspected car bomb attack outside Moscow, Russian state investigators said yesterday.

Darya Dugina, daughter of prominent ideologue Alexander Dugin, was killed on Saturday evening after a suspected explosive device blew up the Toyota Land Cruiser she was driving, investigators said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry speculated that Ukraine might have been behind the attack. Ukraine denied any involvement.

Russia's TASS state news agency quoted Andrei Krasnov, someone who knew Dugina, as saying the vehicle belonged to her father and that he was probably the intended target.

Father and daughter had been attending a festival outside Moscow and Dugin had decided to switch cars at the last minute, Russian government newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta reported.

TV footage accompanying a statement by Moscow region



Journalist and political expert Darya Dugina



Investigators work at the site of a suspect



Darya Dugina, who also went by the surname Platonova and was reported by Russian state media to be 30 years old, broadly supported her father's ideas and appeared on state TV in her own right to offer support for Russia's actions in Ukraine.