

Jakarta: A strong earthquake shook parts of Indonesia's main island of Java and tourist island of Bali on Friday, causing panic but there were no immediate reports of serious damage or casualties. The US Geological Survey said the magnitude 7.0

quake was centred 96.5 kilometres north of Tuban, a coastal city in East Java province, at a depth of 594 kilometres. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency said there was no danger of a tsunami but warned of possible aftershocks.



GLOBAL BULLETIN

France approves higher pension age

Paris: France's Constitutional Council on Friday approved an unpopular plan to raise the retirement age to 64, in a victory for President Emmanuel Macron after three months of mass protests over the legislation that have damaged his leadership. The move is likely to enrage unions and other opponents of the pension plan, including protesters gathered in spots around France on Friday evening as the decision came down. The council rejected some other measures in the pension bill, but the higher age was central to Macron's plan and the target of protesters' anger. Macron can enact the bill within 15 days.

3 students killed in Italy avalanche

Rome: Rescue crew on Friday recovered the bodies of three students training to be Alpine guides who were caught in an avalanche along Italy's northwest border with France, officials said. The National Alpine Rescue Corps had suspended the search on Thursday due to bad weather after the avalanche in the Val di Rhemes, near the Gran Paradiso range of Valle d'Aosta. Rescuers resumed the operation on Friday and located the bodies, which were brought to Aosta for formal identification, the corps said in a series of tweets.

Cyclone Ilsa lashes Australian coast

Canberra: Australia's most powerful tropical cyclone in eight years lashed its northwest coast with winds gusting to an apparent record of 289 kilometres per hour on Friday but skirted larger population centres and resulted in no immediate reports of injuries. Ilsa crossed the Pilbara coast of Western Australia as a Category 5 storm, the most severe, but weakened to Category 2 as it moved inland. Damage was still being assessed in the path of Ilsa, which made landfall in the early hours 150 kilometres northeast of town of Port Hedland.

8 killed as vehicles collide in Indonesia

Jakarta: Eight people were killed and six injured in a multi-vehicle collision on the Semarang-Solo toll road in Java on Friday. Six people died at the scene, and another two died while receiving medical treatment at the hospital, according to Boyolali Regency police officer Herdi Pratama. "A trailer truck carrying iron hit a minibus that was travelling in front, then struck six other cars that were parked on the road shoulder," said Pratama. Those injured were receiving treatment at two hospitals.

Snowmelt leads to flooding in US

Flagstaff: A rapid spring snowmelt after an unusually wet winter is unleashing flooding from Southwest to the Rockies, causing residents to evacuate or stock up on sandbags amid surging creeks and rivers. In Flagstaff, Arizona, neighbours on one street have been working side by side since Tuesday with shovels to stave off floodwaters from their homes. Three creek-retention basins installed last year helped initially, city emergency officials said. But water has engulfed the shoulder of a local highway, and several roads and sidewalks are closed. Even sections of urban trails are submerged.

First woman in Swiss cabinet Kopp dies

Geneva: Elisabeth Kopp, an advocate of equal rights and the environment who was the first woman elected to Switzerland's seven-member executive branch, has died. She was 86. Kopp died in the town of Zumikon, near Zurich, from complications related to an unspecified "long illness," the federal chancellery said on Friday. Once one of Switzerland's leading figure skaters, Kopp was inspired to work on behalf of refugees, human rights and democracy after seeing the Communist government of Hungary, a Warsaw Pact country, lead a violent repression against a popular uprising in 1956. According to a database of Swiss elites hosted by the University of Lausanne, Elisabeth Kopp, nee Ikle, was born in Zurich on December 16, 1936.

Biggest intel leak of decade in the US

Air National Guard member Jack Teixeira appears in court as FBI reveals case against him

AP / Washington

The Biden administration is going to have a hard time explaining how the biggest US intelligence leak in a decade may have been committed by a 21-year-old airman whose role — "cyber transport systems journeyman" — required a high-school degree, a driver's license and up to 18 months of on-the-job-training.

The FBI arrested Jack Teixeira, of Dighton, Massachusetts, on Thursday, with promise of a swift arraignment on Friday. Attorney General Merrick Garland said he was being held in connection with the "unauthorised removal, retention and transmission of classified national defence information."

Billings records of an Internet social media platform and interviews with another user helped the FBI identify a Massachusetts Air National Guardsman as a suspect in the leak of highly classified military documents, according to court records unsealed on Friday. The new details came as Jack Teixeira, 21, appeared in court to face charges under the Espionage Act of unauthorised removal and retention of classified and national defence information.



National guardsman Jack Teixeira arrested by the FBI

A federal magistrate judge ordered him held until a detention hearing next week. Teixeira was arrested by heavily armed tactical agents on Thursday following a weeklong criminal investigation into the disclosure of the government records, a breach that exposed to the world unvarnished secret assessments on the war in Ukraine, the capabilities and geopolitical interests of other nations and other national security issues.

He appeared in court on Friday in jail clothes for a brief proceeding at which US Magistrate Judge David Hennessy ordered him held pending a hearing next Wednesday. Investigators believe Teixeira was the leader of an online private chat group on Discord, a social media platform popular with people playing

online games. Billing records the FBI obtained from Discord, which has said it was cooperating with the bureau, helped lead investigators to Teixeira, according to an FBI affidavit unsealed Friday. According to the document, the FBI interviewed someone familiar with Teixeira's online posts on Monday. That person, who is not identified in the affidavit, told the FBI that a username linked to Teixeira began posting what appeared to be classified information roughly in December.

The affidavit suggests Teixeira switched from typing out documents in his possession to taking them home and photographing them because he "had become concerned that he may be discovered making the transcriptions of text in the workplace."

Jaishankar rides 'Made in India' train in Mozambique

PTI / Maputo

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar rode a 'Made in India' train here during his visit to Mozambique and held a "great green" conversation on expanding train networks, electric mobility and waterways connectivity with the country's transport minister.

Jaishankar arrived here in the capital of Mozambique on Thursday on a three-day visit and met the President of the African country's Parliament to strengthen bilateral cooperation. His visit to Mozambique is the first-ever visit by an external affairs minister of India to the country.

"A great green transport conversation with Mozambican Minister of Transport & Communication and Chairman, Mozambican Port & Rail Authority Mateus Magala. Talked about expanding train networks, electric mobility & waterways connectivity. India is a reliable partner in this regard," he tweeted. He also took a ride on a train manufactured in India.

"Took a ride in a 'Made in India' train from Maputo to Machava with Mozambican Transport Minister Mateus Magala. Appreciate CMD RITES Rahul Mithal joining us on the journey," he tweeted.

Jaishankar also interacted with the Indian community and visited a temple.

S Korea, US stage air drills involving B-52H bomber

IANs / Seoul

South Korea and the US held joint air drills, involving at least one B-52H strategic bomber, on Friday, Seoul's defence ministry said.

The South Korean Air Force mobilised its F-35A radar-evading fighters and F-15K jets for the drills, while the US side deployed F-16 fighters in addition to the bomber, according to the ministry.

It did not specify in which part of the Korean Peninsula the drills took place.

"It is assessed that (the drills) represented a close-knit, coordinated response demonstrating the powerful 'strength of the alliance' and the US will to provide extended deterrence against the recent series of North Korean provocations," the ministry said in a press release.

The drills reaffirmed the capability to swiftly deploy US strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula as well as the allies' enhanced combined operational capabilities and interoperability, it added.

The ministry also said the allies will demonstrate "through action" their resolve not to accept any nuclear attack from the North by strengthening the frequency and intensity of the deployments of US strategic assets.

Strategic assets usually refer to high-profile military assets, such as nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, submarines and strategic bombers.



US Air Force B-52H strategic bomber (top) flying with South Korean Air Force F-35A fighter jets during a joint air drill in South Korea

Tested solid-fuel ballistic missile, claims North Korea

Seoul: North Korea said on Friday it flight-tested a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time, a possible breakthrough in its efforts to acquire a more powerful, harder-to-detect weapon targeting the continental United States. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency issued the report a day after the country's neighbours detected a launch of a long-range missile from near Pyongyang, which extended a run of weapons displays involving more than 100 missiles fired into the sea since the start of 2022. Thursday's test did not appear to demonstrate the weapon's full capacity, and it remains unclear how far North Korea has come in mastering technologies to ensure the warhead would withstand atmospheric reentry and accurately strike targets. Still, analysts said the test was likely a meaningful advance in North Korea's goal to build a nuclear arsenal that could directly threaten the United States.

Article on Ukraine war: Russian court fines Wikipedia

AP / Moscow

A Moscow court again fined Wikipedia for a Russian-language article it refused to remove about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the latest in a series of government moves to silence objective reporting or criticism of the war and restrict the Russian public's access to information.

The court fined Wikimedia Foundation, the nonprofit that runs free, publicly-edited online encyclopedia, \$24,464 for not removing a Wikipedia article titled "Russian occupation of the Zaporizhzhia region," a reference to one of four Ukrainian provinces that Russia annexed last September. Most countries have condemned the annexation, as well as that by Russia in 2014 of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, as illegal.

The state Tass news agency said Wikimedia Foundation had failed to heed demands of Russia's state communications watchdog Roskomnadzor to remove articles containing "false information." Tass said a Wikipedia representative asked court to reject the removal demand as vague. President Vladimir Putin

'Expelled Russian envoys are spies'

Copenhagen: A senior Norwegian spy agency officer said on Friday that "the intelligence threat from Russia is not gone, but significantly reduced" after Norway expelled 15 Russian diplomats on suspicion of spying. "We are sure that they are intelligence officers," said Inger Haugland, head of the counterintelligence unit with the Norwegian Police Security Service, known as the PST. "We believe the measure taken yesterday was a good and important measure." On Thursday, Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt said the diplomats were suspected of spying while working at the Russian Embassy in Oslo.

has increased his crackdown on criticism and factual reporting that doesn't correspond to his government's views or versions of events. The crackdown has widened since his troops invaded Ukraine on February 22.

Ukraine bans its sport teams from competing with Russia, Belarus

IANs / Kyiv

Ukraine's Sports Ministry has forbidden its national teams from competing in Olympic, non-Olympic, and Paralympic events where Russian and Belarusian athletes will be participating.

The sports ministry published a decree, signed by the country's deputy sports minister Matvii Bidnyi, on its website on Friday. "To prohibit official delegations of national teams of Ukraine to participate in international sports competitions in which athletes from the Russian Federation and/or Belarus participate," the ministry's decree read.

"The Departments of Olympic Sports, Physical Culture and Non-Olympic Sports, the Ukrainian Centre for Physical Culture and Sports for Disabled shall ensure withdrawal of official delegations from their trips if athletes from Russian Federation and Belarus are participating in respective competitions," it added. "All-Ukrainian sports federations monitor possible participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus in international sports competitions and promptly inform Ministry of Youth and Sports."

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL MUMBAI (DRT 3) Public notice regarding debt recovery proceedings against GANESH BIBHISHAN DIDWAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE regarding property details and legal proceedings involving Mr. Hareshkumar Mangal Mehta and Mrs. Yashodara Hareshkumar Mehta.

FORM B PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF EEZEEO ONE TRAVEL & TOURS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).

E-AUCTION - PUBLIC NOTICE DIDWANIA SPINNING MILLS P Ltd (In Liquidation) Notice is hereby given to the public in general under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and regulation there under...

WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN WEEKLY SUMMER SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN MUMBAI CENTRAL - BANARAS. Includes train schedule table and booking information.