



Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, waves to the audience after being sworn in as the 17th President of the Philippines beside his wife Louise Aranaeta-Marcos and their sons, during the inauguration ceremony at the National Museum in Manila, Philippines, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PHOTO: REUTERS

Hyping up China threat is completely futile

Warns Beijing as Nato declares China a security challenge for the first time

AFP, Beijing

The response came after Nato's strategic concept, published at a summit in Madrid, said Beijing's stated ambitions and coercive policies challenged its interests, security and values. Nato also said that China's close ties to Russia went against Western interests, drawing a fiery response from Beijing.

Nato, whose guiding document was updated for the first time since 2010, also accused China of targeting its members with “malicious hybrid and cyber operations and its confrontational rhetoric”.

Zhao hit back, saying that China did not pose “the systemic challenge imagined”. Instead, he said, it was Nato that is a “systemic challenge to world peace and stability” and its “hands are stained with the blood of the world’s people”.

Dozens killed in Manipur landslide

REUTERS, Guwahati

Rescue workers battled heavy rains and inclement weather to pull out nineteen survivors from the rubble yesterday morning after the landslide occurred at a railway construction site in the early hours.

"In all there were about 81 people. The chances of survival of the remaining 55 people are very thin considering the fact that the landslide occurred around 2 a.m.," Haulianlal Guite, district magistrate of Noney district in Manipur, where the accident occurred, told Reuters by telephone.

This month unprecedented rains have lashed India's north-eastern states and Bangladesh, killing more than 150 people. Millions have been displaced by the catastrophic floods in recent weeks, and in some low lying areas houses have been submerged.

Recounting horror

By 8:00pm, the tables were mostly occupied by expatriates -- a group of Italians and another of

None, however, had any idea of the horrors that would befall a relatively tranquil evening.

firecracker. What happened next was beyond their wildest dreams.

Shouting "Allahu Akbar",
five young men brandishing

weapons, including semi-automatic rifles, grenades and machetes, burst into the eatery and started attacking indiscriminately.

Shrieks and screams immediately pierced

Panicked and bewildered, the diners ducked under tables and scurried about for safety. The attackers held the diners who could not get out of their reach and sorted out the non-Muslims by a grim test of reciting verses from the Holy Quran.

"You don't have to be scared. We will not kill the Muslims. Lay your heads down on the table," they said.

Cost will be realised in 18-20 years

FROM PAGE 12
odds at home and abroad.

Earlier on June 27, Road Transport and Bridges minister Obaidul Quader at parliament said, "Bangladesh Bridge Authority will repay all the loans given by the government in 140 quarterly instalments

in 35 years with the toll collected from vehicles using the Padma Bridge.”

The bridge inaugurated on June 25 connects 21 south-western districts with Dhaka.

The PM yesterday said the bridge would be particularly beneficial to the country's economy. "We believe we

Law enforcers succeeded in busting a number of militant dens through counter-terrorism operations. The mastermind of the attack – Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi-origin Canadian – was killed during one such drive a month later on August 27, 2016.

Tamim spearheaded the Neo JMB after coming to Bangladesh in 2013 and took charge as its chief in 2015. On July 11 that year, his group joined mainstream JMB leaders Sarwar Jahan Manik's group. Sarwar was also killed in a drive on October 8, 2016.

Since the café attack, law enforcers carried out 28 high risk anti-militancy operations at dens where 79 militants were killed and a huge amounts of explosives were destroyed or seized.

Following the massacre, a case was filed with Gulshan police under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

On November 27, 2019, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Dhaka sentenced seven militants to death for their involvement in the attack, terming it a disgraceful attack aimed at assassinating the non-communal character of Bangladesh.

The case is now awaiting the High Court disposal.

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