



I just want to recall the events of recent history, when Margaret Thatcher decided to launch military operations against Argentina for the Falkland Islands. So, a woman took the decision to launch military action.

Russian President
Vladimir Putin
rejects British PM Boris
Johnson's charge that
if he were a woman he
would not have invaded
Ukraine

Hong Kong has withstood severe tests again and again, overcoming challenges one by one. After the wind and rain, Hong Kong has risen from the ashes.

China's President **Xi Jinping**

While we are very grateful to the EU for its efforts, we are disappointed that Iran has, yet again, failed to respond positively to the EU's initiative and therefore that no progress was made.

A US State Department spokesperson on Iran-US talks



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 Araneta-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

Beijing yesterday slammed Nato over a “completely futile” warning in which the group said for the first time in a guiding blueprint that China’s power challenges the military alliance.

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 closer ties to Russia went against Western interests, drawing a fiery response from Beijing.

concept document disregards facts, confuses black and white... (and) smears China's foreign policy," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said yesterday.

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

At least seven people have died and another 55 are feared to have been killed after a massive landslide in a remote area of the north-eastern Indian state of Manipur, local officials said yesterday.

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.

PARIS 2015 TERROR ATTACK

Maximum life term for sole surviving attacker

AFP, Paris

The sole surviving member of an Islamic State terror cell that killed 130 people in Paris in November 2015 was handed a whole life sentence on Wednesday at the end of a trial that aimed to draw a line under the worst peace-time atrocity in modern French history. Salah Abdeslam, a 32-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan origin, was captured alive by police four months after the bloodbath at the Bataclan concert hall and other locations. All of the attackers except for Abdeslam blew themselves up or were killed by police during or after the assault. Abdeslam, a one-time pot-smoking lover of parties, discarded his suicide belt on the night of the attack and fled back to his hometown, Brussels. He told the court that he had had a change of heart and decided not to kill people. But after hearing that his suicide belt was defective, the judges concluded that this "cast serious doubt" on his apparent "renunciation".

Israel set for Nov 1 polls

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli lawmakers dissolved parliament yesterday, forcing the country's fifth election in less than four years, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid set to take over as caretaker prime minister at midnight. The final dissolution bill, which passed with 92 votes in favour none against, ends the year-long premiership of Naftali Bennett, who led an eight-party coalition that was backed by an Arab party, a first in Israeli history.

Not enough support for Scottish independence

AFP, Edinburgh

Scottish voters remain divided over independence with those against breaking away from the United Kingdom having "the narrowest of leads" over those in favour, a poll released on Thursday suggested. "If a referendum were tomorrow, 44 percent of Scots say they'll vote Yes, while 46 percent say they'll vote No, leaving 10 percent undecided," said Savanta ComRes, which conducted the poll for The Scotsman newspaper.

[illegible]