



**PATIENT PAYMENT PLAN.** This May 2018 photo released by Su Lingmin shows her with a mask on her hospital bed in Harbin in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province. Recently diagnosed with leukemia, the 27-year-old native of Harbin is helping give a human face to the struggle for more affordable cancer drugs in China. (Sun Lingmin via AP)

## Chinese leukemia patient livestreams to pay for treatment

By Yanan Wang  
The Associated Press

**B**EIJING — At least once a week, Su Lingmin films herself singing, sharing health tips, and chatting with hundreds of fans from her hospital bed.

“Now I’m a professional livestreamer,” she said with a smile in a recent video. “What else can I do?”

Diagnosed with leukemia four months ago, the 27-year-old native of the northern Chinese city of Harbin is helping give a human face to the struggle for more affordable cancer drugs in China.

That cause has been bolstered by the popularity of a recent film, *Dying to Survive*, which follows the darkly comedic capers of a Chinese businessman-turned-drug smuggler who saves lives by illegally importing a leukemia drug from India, where it costs several times less than in China.

Inspired by a true story, the movie has made more than \$400 million since its release in early July, winning praise from moviegoers and critics and prompting government action.

State news agency Xinhua reported that several provinces have lowered drug prices by up to 10 percent since the end of June. Most of the drugs targeted for price reductions are imported, like the Swiss-developed Gleevec medication in *Dying to Survive*.

Beijing previously announced in May that cancer drugs would be exempt from import tariffs. Chinese labs are said to be designing equally effective drugs for a fraction of the price, Xinhua said.

“Imported drugs are just too expensive,” said Du Yanan of the Beijing-based Heart to Heart foundation. Du runs a program that matches each yuan (\$0.14) that leukemia patients spend on a form of Gleevec that costs 10,000 yuan (\$1,474) for a single box of pills.

Commenting on the discussions sparked by the film, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang vowed to accelerate the process of making cancer medication more affordable.

“At the moment when there is a single cancer patient at home, the whole family must pour out all its resources,” the premier acknowledged.

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## World gazes at total lunar eclipse, longest of this century

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Curiosity and awe greeted a complete lunar eclipse, the longest one of this century and visible in much of the world.

The so-called “blood moon,” when it turns a deep red, was visible at different times in Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe, and South America when the sun, Earth, and moon lined up perfectly, casting the Earth’s shadow on the moon.

The total eclipse lasted one hour and 43 minutes, with the entire event lasting closer to four hours.

Rio de Janeiro’s spectators cheered when the blood moon emerged from the fog. Hundreds of people watched at a fort overlooking the iconic Copacabana beach and Sugarloaf Mountain. The local planetarium set up telescopes for astrology fans.

“These telescopes are fantastic. It’s one thing to see pictures of the planets in a book and another to see it in real life,” said Ana Selma Ferreira, a 46-year old lawyer who brought her children to the spectacle.

Across Africa, people turned to the sky, watching the reddish shadow slide up the moon’s surface. In Somalia, some hurried to mosques for special prayers. In South



**EPIC ECLIPSE.** A blood moon rises during a complete lunar eclipse in Hong Kong. Curiosity and awe greeted the complete lunar eclipse, the longest one of this century and visible in much of the world. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Sudan, some dared to take photos in a war-torn country where using a camera in public is discouraged.

In Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, people at an open-air restaurant admired a rare clear view during the rainy season, comparing a live National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) webcast to

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## Tokyo’s 1964 Olympics echo through the city’s 2020 games

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the Budokan,” Lambiasi said.

Architects have criticized Japan’s construction and real-estate industry for tearing down older buildings, often using updated earthquake regulations as the reason to raze and rebuild. The Yoyogi and the Budokan have bucked the trend.

“As an architect, it’s painful to see so many of these iconic buildings being destroyed,” Lambiasi said. “I’m so happy to know that, rather than being torn down, these buildings are being reused.”

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