



## Paraguay contestant wins, then swoons at beauty pageant

BANGKOK (AP) — A Paraguayan beauty pageant winner swooned on stage after admitting the anticipation just before the announcement was unbearable. Miss Grand International 2018 Clara Sosa fell as soon as she was announced this year's winner. At the time, she was holding hands with the first runner-up, Meenakshi Chaudhary of India, who tried to help but failed to catch Sosa as she collapsed and hit the floor. Sosa soon recovered and waved, cried, and smiled to cameras before she was surrounded by fellow contestants who congratulated her. In an interview before the winner was announced, Sosa said breathlessly that she might need a doctor because she felt like she would have a heart attack. Earlier in the night, contestants were asked which country they would visit to campaign for an end to wars and violence. Sosa said if she won she would "strategically" choose to visit President Donald Trump "because the United States is an example for other countries. So my first message to him would be: please be an example of peace, love, and tolerance."

## Spacecraft sent on seven-year journey to Mercury

TOKYO (AP) — European and Japanese space agencies say an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft into orbit for a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to the sun. The European Space Agency and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency say the BepiColombo spacecraft successfully separated and was sent into orbit from French Guiana to begin a seven-year journey to Mercury. The mission is complicated by the intense gravity pull of the sun, forcing the spacecraft to take an elliptical path that involves two fly-bys of Venus and six of Mercury itself. Once the spacecraft arrives in late 2025, it will release two probes that will independently investigate the surface and magnetic field of Mercury.

## Chris Evert trophy will go to No. 1 player in WTA

SINGAPORE (AP) — The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) has dedicated its trophy for the top-ranked player of the year in honor of Chris Evert. Simona Halep has received the newly named Chris Evert WTA World No. 1 Trophy. She's the year-end No. 1 for the second straight season. Halep isn't playing in the current WTA Finals because of a back injury. Evert was the first WTA No. 1 in 1975, when she won 15 titles. She said she's "honored and privileged" to have her name on the trophy. The American finished her career in 1989 with 157 singles titles and 18 Grand Slam singles titles. Steffi Graf earned the year-end No. 1 a record eight times from 1987-1996.

## China says internment camps are "free vocational training"

BEIJING (AP) — A senior Chinese official is describing the mass internment of ethnic minority Muslims in the country's far west as a system of training centers that saves Muslims from religious extremism by teaching them to speak Mandarin and accept modern science. It was a rare instance of the ruling Communist Party publicly detailing its vision of what the extrajudicial detention of an estimated 1 million ethnic minority Uighur (WEE-gur) and Kazakh Muslims is setting out to achieve. Shohrat Zakir, governor of the Xinjiang region, said in a report by the official Xinhua News Agency that the centers also train people to work in factories. Former detainees have told The Associated Press that they were held in camps where they were forced to recite party slogans and renounce their faith.

## Nepal blocks 25,000 websites in pornography ban

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepalese internet providers have begun blocking thousands of pornographic websites as part of a government directive aimed at stopping sexual violence. The government issued new criminal and civil codes this year that include regulations against the use, broadcast, and publication of pornographic materials. Min Prasad Aryal of the Nepal Telecom Authority said more than 25,000 websites were blocked under the campaign. Internet service providers say they are complying with the government order but say it would be impossible to weed out and block all such sites. The government issued a similar ban in 2011, but this time there are more serious punishments for violations.

## Sri Lanka president sacks PM, appoints strongman

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lankan state television says President Maithripala Sirisena has sacked the prime minister and replaced him with a former strongman. The state-run Rupavahini station reported that Sirisena replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe with his former nemesis, Mahinda Rajapaksa. The move ends a more than three-year-old coalition government that was formed between bitterly opposed political parties in 2015 on a platform of good governance.

## Vietnam frees popular blogger on condition she leave Asia

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam has freed a well-known blogger after two years in prison on the condition that she leave for the United States. Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh, known as "Mother Mushroom," was arrested in October 2016 and sentenced to 10 years in prison on charges of defaming the Communist government. The conviction of the popular blogger, who wrote about human rights and industrial pollution, drew criticism from some western governments and international human-rights groups. Friends of the 39-year-old blogger said she was on her way to the U.S. with her mother and two young children. Quynh's lawyer, Ha Huy Son, said her release was good news but did not lift the obstacles faced by people who fight for democracy in Vietnam.



**VANISHING GLACIER.** Tourists pose for a selfie near the Baishui No. 1 Glacier atop Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the southern province of Yunnan in China. Scientists say the glacier is one of the fastest melting glaciers in the world due to climate change and its relative proximity to the Equator. It has lost 60 percent of its mass and shrunk 820 feet since 1982, according to a 2018 report in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*. (AP Photo/Sam McNeil)

# Melting glacier in China draws tourists, climate worries

By Sam McNeil and Olivia Zhang  
The Associated Press

**Y**ULONGXUESHAN, China — The loud crack rang out from the fog above the Baishui No. 1 Glacier as a stone shard careened down the ice, flying past Chen Yanjun as he operated a GPS device.

More projectiles were tumbling down the hulk of ice that scientists say is one of the world's fastest melting glaciers.

"We should go," said the 30-year-old geologist. "The first rule is safety."

Chen hiked away and onto a barren landscape once buried beneath the glacier. Now there is exposed rock littered with oxygen tanks discarded by tourists visiting the 15,000-foot-high blanket of ice in southern China.

Millions of people each year are drawn to Baishui's frosty beauty on the southeastern edge of the Third Pole — a region in Central Asia with the world's third largest store of ice after Antarctica and Greenland that's roughly the size of Texas and New Mexico combined.

Third Pole glaciers are vital to billions of people from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Asia's 10 largest rivers — including the Yangtze, Yellow, Mekong, and Ganges — are fed by seasonal melting.

"You're talking about one of the world's largest freshwater sources," said Ashley Johnson, energy program manager at the National Bureau of Asian Research, an American think tank. "Depending on how it melts, a lot of the freshwater will be leaving the region for the ocean, which will have severe

impacts on water and food security."

Earth is today 1° Centigrade (1.8° Fahrenheit) hotter than pre-industrial levels because of climate change — enough to melt 28 to 44 percent of glaciers worldwide, according to a new report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Temperatures are expected to keep rising.

Baishui is about as close to the Equator as Tampa, Florida. And the impacts of climate change already are dramatic.

The glacier has lost 60 percent of its mass and shrunk 820 feet since 1982, according to a 2018 report in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

Scientists found in 2015 that 82 percent of glaciers surveyed in China had retreated. They warned that the effects of glacier melting on water resources are gradually becoming "increasingly serious" for China.

"China has always had a freshwater supply problem with 20 percent of the world's population but only seven percent of its freshwater," said Jonna Nyman, an energy security lecturer at the University of Sheffield. "That's heightened by the impact of climate change."

For years, scientists have observed global warming change Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the Chinese province of Yunnan.

One research team has tracked Baishui's retreat of about 30 yards per year over the past decade. Flowers, such as snow lotus, have rooted in exposed earth, says Wang Shijin, a glaciologist and director of the Yulong Snow

*Continued on page 4*

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Units per U.S. dollar as of 11/02

Bangladesh Taka	78.314
Cambodian Riel	4050.5
China Renminbi	6.8891
Fijian Dollar	2.2036
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8301
Indian Rupee	72.431
Indonesian Rupiah	15011
Iranian Rial	42025
Japanese Yen	112.98
Laos New Kip	8553.1
Malaysian Ringgit	4.1841
Nepal Rupee	117.21
Pakistani Rupee	132.36
Papua N.G. Kina	3.2652
Philippine Peso	53.14
Russian Ruble	65.987
Saudi Riyal	3.7555
Singapore Dollar	1.375
South Korean Won	1116.4
Sri Lankan Rupee	172.6
Taiwan Dollar	30.66
Thai Baht	32.831
Vietnam Dong	23402