

Lifestyle

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Indian school students take part in a yoga camp in Hyderabad yesterday, ahead of International Yoga Day celebrated every year on June 21. Yoga, which means union in Sanskrit, is a family of ancient spiritual practices and also a school of spiritual thought from South Asia, where it remains a vibrant living tradition and is seen as a means of enlightenment. — AFP

Indonesia takes a bite out of food waste one wedding at a time

In the slums of Jakarta, Indonesia's poor are getting a taste of how the other half live thanks to a new program that aims to take a bite out of its mammoth food-waste problem.

Called a Blessing to Share, the service supplies leftover wedding dishes to some of the poorest members of society in the sprawling capital. Even as it struggles with poverty and malnutrition, the Southeast Asian nation bins more edible food per person than any other country except Saudi Arabia, according to an

Economist Intelligence Unit survey last year. Indonesia's 260 million citizens each throw out an average of almost 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of food annually, ahead of the United States in third spot, the survey said.

The country's food waste problem can be partly chalked up to local hospitality, which calls for ample helpings at all celebrations. Hosts often err on the side of abundance, and many hungry revelers' eyes are bigger than their stomachs—meaning lots of uneaten food. Globally, about 30 percent of food produced

every year is tossed out or spoiled—about 1.3 billion tons—which translates into some \$1 trillion in economic costs, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Association. That's where a Blessing To Share comes in.

"There are lots of weddings in Indonesia and lots of extra food," said program founder Astrid Paramita. "And there are lots of hungry people unfortunately, so this program is trying to close that gap between the rich and needy." So far the program is fairly limited, but Paramita has big plans and hopes to expand to other cities and also start sourcing edibles from company meetings and conferences. Since starting in November, about 50 weddings have participated in the program with about 1.6 tons of food collected for distribution through a local food bank. For 60-year-old scavenger Efendi, getting a meal from one couple's lavish nuptials across town was a welcome surprise. "I didn't expect this—suddenly I'm getting free food," he said. —AP



A waiter packing uneaten food for distribution through the program "A Blessing to Share", after a wedding at a hotel in Jakarta.



A waitress packing uneaten food for distribution through the program 'A Blessing to Share'.



Volunteers of the program "A Blessing to Share" carrying containers with uneaten food as they distribute leftovers in a slum area in Jakarta.

Vows in the air: German couple married in tightrope wedding

A couple in eastern Germany have gotten married in a swing dangling from a motorcycle atop a tightrope, 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground. The German news agency dpa reported that a pastor standing in a cage atop a fire service ladder presided over the wedding of Nicole Backhaus and Jens Knorr in the town of Stassfurt on Saturday.

The couple exchanged rings in the air but, for safety's sake, waited until they were back on the ground to kiss. More than 3,000 people watched the wedding in the sky, which took place during a local festival. The tightrope was stretched between the town wall and a tower, and the motorbike was ridden by Falko Traber, a member of a family of artists. —AP

Pastor stefen Gierung, left, stands in a cage atop of a fire service ladder in front of bride Nicole Backhaus, center, and groom Jens Knorr, right, both sitting in a swing dangling under a motorcycle with artist Falko Traber, top, during the wedding ceremony atop a tightrope. — AP photos



Bride Nicole Backhaus, left, and groom Jens Knorr, right, sit in a swing dangling under a motorcycle with artist Falko Traber, top, during their wedding ceremony atop a tightrope.

