



**Chimp flees zoo, caught after falling from power pole**

TOKYO (AP) — A chimpanzee fled from a zoo in northern Japan and tried desperately to avoid being captured by climbing an electric pole. But not for long. Chacha, the male chimp, was on the loose nearly two hours after it disappeared from the Yagiyama Zoological Park in Sendai, the city that's hosting finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations in May. Television footage showed Chacha perched atop the pole, agitated and screaming at zoo workers below. Even after being hit by a sedative arrow in the back, Chacha desperately tried to escape, dangling from a power line. He finally gave up and fell head down into a blanket held by a dozen workers on the ground.

**Indonesia sinks 23 foreign fishing boats**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian authorities have blown up 23 foreign vessels that were captured for fishing illegally in the country's waters. The boats, 13 from Vietnam and 10 from Malaysia, were blown up simultaneously in seven ports from Tarakan in northern Kalimantan to Ranai on the Natuna Islands in the South China Sea. Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Susi Pudjiastuti witnessed the destruction, which was coordinated by the navy, coast guard, and police via live-streamed internet video at her office in downtown Jakarta. Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, has taken a tough stance against illegal fishing since President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo took office in 2014. Pudjiastuti has overseen the capture of nearly 200 illegal fishing boats from several countries after declaring a fishing moratorium for foreign vessels. A total of 174 illegal fishing boats have been blown up. The fates of 20 others await court rulings. In March, Indonesia destroyed the Nigeria-flagged *Viking* with explosives. The ship was wanted around the world for illegally taking toothfish from southern waters. It was seized by the Indonesian navy February 25 while operating in waters south of Singapore.

**Cambodian activist slashed with machete as she slept**

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A leading international environmental group has called on the Cambodian government to investigate an attack on a young forest activist who was slashed with a machete while she slept in a hammock after patrolling for illegal loggers. Global Witness said Phan Sopheak, 25, sustained an injury to her feet in the March 26 attack by unidentified perpetrators in Kratie province. Phan Sopheak is a member of the Prey Lang Community Network, a grassroots movement in northeastern Cambodia. Its members said the assailants were trying to cut her throat, Global Witness said. "Cambodia's forests have become like a piggy bank for Cambodia's elites and their cronies, who routinely flout forest protection laws to pillage them for valuable timber, or sell off the land illegally for mining and agribusiness concessions," said Josie Cohen, a land campaigner at Global Witness, which investigates economic networks behind environmental destruction. Activists say members of the Prey Lang network have suffered regular harassment from Cambodian courts, police, and soldiers, as well as local officials involved in the timber business. The group is made up largely of indigenous activists who live in and around the Prey Lang forest and rely on it for their food, medicine, and jobs.

**South Korea upholds tough anti-prostitution laws**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's top court has upheld laws that toughened punishment on prostitutes, pimps, and their clients. The 2004 legislation drove thousands of sex workers in traditional red-light zones out of business in South Korea, but prostitution has still thrived in the shadows. Sex workers have occasionally held rallies calling for the abolishment of the laws. The Constitutional Court ruled to uphold a provision that makes it a criminal offense to voluntarily sell or buy sex, punishable by a year in prison or a fine. The ruling was made in response to a complaint by a female sex worker, who argued people have the right to choose their occupation. A court statement said the government could deny such individual rights to prevent exploitation and protect moral values.

**China imposes anti-dumping duties on foreign steel**

BEIJING (AP) — China has imposed anti-dumping duties on steel from the European Union, Japan, and South Korea. The Ministry of Commerce said on its website that imports of grain-oriented flat-rolled steel will be charged duties ranging from 14.5 percent to 46.3 percent. The ministry said Chinese producers suffered "substantial damage" due to improperly underpriced foreign steel. For its part, Beijing also faces complaints by its trading partners that Chinese steel mills are exporting at improperly low prices to clear away a backlog of excess production. The ministry will impose anti-dumping duties between 6.1 and 17.8 percent on imports of acrylic fibers from Japan, South Korea, and Turkey.

**Indonesia threatens to bar DiCaprio over comments**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — An Indonesian immigration official says Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio may be banned from returning to Indonesia over his criticisms that palm-oil plantations are destroying the country's rainforests. DiCaprio made a one-day visit to protected Mount Leuser National Park in Tamiang, an Aceh district neighboring North Sumatra province, in March and uploaded photos to his Instagram account, expressing concerns over species whose habitats are threatened. Heru Santoso, spokesman for the Directorate General for Immigration at the Law and Human Rights Ministry, said DiCaprio used his visit to discredit the palm-oil industry and the Indonesian government. Santoso said, "We can blacklist him from returning to Indonesia at any time if he keeps posting incitement or provocative statements in his social media."



**TRANSFORMING TRAUMA.** Five asylum-seekers and their teachers, from left, Roohollah, Amin, surf instructor Conrad Pattinson, Uthayakumar, Mahdi, Kumar, and surf instructor Will Bigelow practice standing on their surfboards while still on the sand during a surfing class on Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. A novel program by the not-for-profit organization Settlement Services International is introducing asylum-seekers to the iconic Aussie sport of surfing in a bid to transform their feelings toward the ocean and their lives. (AP Photo/Rob Griffith)

**In Australia, surfing soothes asylum-seekers' fears of sea**

By Kristen Gelineau  
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — They gather under the blazing sun and blue skies of an Australian beach, looking out at the water that once symbolized so much misery: Terrifying boat trips marked by sickness and death and the constant dread that their own lives might be nearing the end. But today, the sea will become their unlikely savior.

For these five asylum-seekers, a novel program introducing them to the iconic Aussie sport of surfing is helping to transform both their feelings toward the ocean and their lives and allowing them, at least for a brief time, to forget the pains of the past.

"We know that getting into the ocean and surfing makes everybody feel good," says Brenda Miley, surf school director at Let's Go Surfing, which is providing the lessons. "... I just think it's a win-win because it helps build confidence, they learn some skills, they learn about being a local Aussie."

There is a rush of nervous laughter and chit-chat as the men file into the Let's Go shop at Sydney's famed surf haven, Bondi Beach. Inside, instructors Conrad Pattinson and Will Bigelow demonstrate how to put on wetsuits.

Amin, an asylum-seeker from Iran, flexes his muscles under the neoprene and chuckles. He has been urging his fellow Surfing Without Borders buddies along all morning, eager to get on a surfboard for the first time. But he admits his excitement is tinged with anxiety.

Like the tens of thousands of asylum-seekers who have fled to Australia in recent years, Amin's trip involved a harrowing ocean crossing that began in Indonesia, where smugglers pack migrants into rickety boats that frequently break down or capsize. Those

who survive the journey are often scarred by it.

Amin's memories of that trip and the relentless seasickness that came with it are dark. Today, though, he hopes to forget all that.

Down on the beach, Pattinson and Bigelow give the men a pep talk. They explain how the current works and the different parts of the surfboard.

"We're going to make a plan to keep it safe and get heaps and heaps of waves," Bigelow says.

Amin eyes the turquoise water, where the swells are gaining strength. He asks how far out they will go. "Not deep," Bigelow assures him.

The students practice standing on the boards from the safety of the sand. Pattinson warns them that if they don't use proper form, they'll lose their balance and "do a helicopter." At this, he circles his arms wildly. The men crack up.

Finally, it is time to hit the water. The men slide onto their boards and paddle toward a sandbar where the waves are breaking. There, the instructors help maneuver the students' boards into the proper position. And when Amin is ready, Pattinson pushes him forward onto his first wave.

Amin presses himself up with his hands, pops into a brief, unsteady crouch and ... Splash!

"Fell down, no good!" he says. Undeterred, he wipes his face, grabs his board, and paddles back out.

One by one, the men make their first shaky attempts as Pattinson and Bigelow whistle and cheer. Flanked by other student surfers, they are largely indistinguishable from the rest of the rookies: Their hips wobble, their arms "do the helicopter," they occasionally

*Continued on page 4*

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Units per U.S. dollar as of 4/15

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Cambodian Riel	4037.9
China Renminbi	6.4763
Fijian Dollar	2.0547
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7569
Indian Rupee	66.645
Indonesian Rupiah	13178
Iranian Rial	30252
Japanese Yen	108.99
Laos New Kip	8119.0
Malaysian Ringgit	3.903
Nepal Rupee	106.57
Pakistani Rupee	104.69
Papua N.G. Kina	3.1299
Philippine Peso	46.13
Russian Ruble	66.446
Saudi Riyal	3.7501
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