

The Asian Reporter

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Isozaki wins Pritzker Architecture Prize

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Ichiromania returns to Japan

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Skip delivery tonight, make pizza at home

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No flights or internet during Bali's sacred Day of Silence



SACRED SILENCE. Children on a bicycle move past a giant effigy locally known as "ogoh-ogoh" that symbolizes evil spirits to celebrate "Nyepi," the annual Day of Silence marking the Balinese Hindu New Year in Bali, Indonesia. Most Balinese practice self-reflection and stay at home to observe the quiet holiday. Tourists visiting the island are asked not to leave their hotels and the airport also is closed. (AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati)

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP) — Bali's airport closed for 24 hours, the internet was turned off, and streets emptied as the predominantly Hindu island in Indonesia observed its New Year with an annual Day of Silence.

"Nyepi" began at 6:00am on Thursday, March 7, clearing beaches and all public spaces of people except for special patrols

to ensure silence was observed. For the second year, phone companies turned off the mobile internet on the island, home to more than 4 million people.

Balinese stayed indoors, covered windows, and kept the lights off for the day of reflection that is the most sacred in Balinese Hinduism.

"A Day of Silence to mark *Saka* (Balinese

calendar) New Year for us Balinese Hindus is an opportunity to restart life with a pure heart," said Wayan Gota, a hotel manager in Kuta, one of the island's tourist hotspots.

"For me, through the ritual of observing thoughts while meditating on Nyepi, in essence I get the opportunity to evaluate

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Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Pig!!

February 5, 2019 to January 24, 2020

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