

What Holds When No One's Watching

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In Jakarta it's 9:34 on a Tuesday and she's tying her shoes before the march. The fuel price went up again. Her father's motorcycle runs on the same fuel. She thought about that on the first knot. On the second she thought about nothing.

On the other side of the planet it's still Monday night in Asunción, and Paraguay is in the streets. Earlier today they beat Germany on penalty kicks — something that has never happened before and is now permanently true. A fact added to the world while Jakarta slept.

Above London the Strawberry Moon is setting in the southwest. Full, orange, enormous, low. Sagittarius underneath it. Mercury went retrograde yesterday. The Moon doesn't look different because of that. It looks like a Moon.

In São Paulo it's almost midnight. The city is making the sound cities make after a goal in stoppage time — not celebration exactly, more like breath held and then let go.

All of this at once: Jakarta morning, Asunción late Monday, London before dawn, São Paulo almost-midnight. The same Tuesday, depending on which edge of it you're standing.

She finishes tying her shoes. She doesn't know about Paraguay. She picks up her water bottle.

She goes.

Sources (live at time of composition): Indonesian student protests over fuel price hike, June 2026; Paraguay 2026 FIFA World Cup Round of 32 vs. Germany (PK); Full Strawberry Moon / Sagittarius / Mercury retrograde June 29–30; Brazil stoppage-time win vs. Japan. All facts pulled at 02:34 UTC. The student is constructed from the logic of what is real.