



FUN DAY

TIMES



*Offering flowers
on Binara Poya Day*

Pic. by Indika Handuwala



**POSTER
CONTEST**

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DAY**

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From a Young Reporter

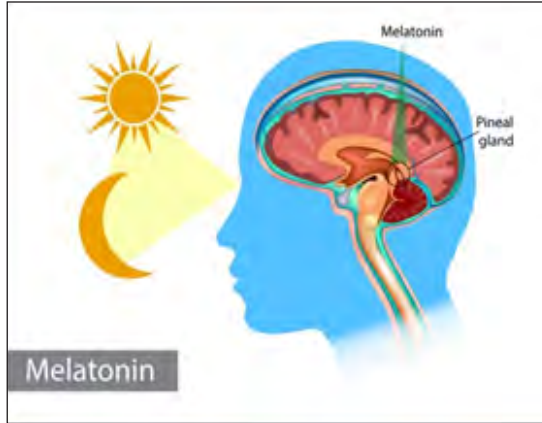
No screens at night?

You might have heard a million times, people saying that staring at electronic screens at night is not healthy.

But have you ever wondered why it is not healthy?

The story starts with a hormone called Melatonin (also known as the sleep hormone). Melatonin is produced in the pineal gland (a small gland present in our brain). It helps detect whether it is night or daytime. It is mainly secreted at night as a response to the darkness. The job of Melatonin is to give signals to the organs in the body when it is night. This hormone is the reason why we get sleepy at night.

Electronic screens can mess with our sleeping schedule. The brightness of the electronic screens of devices such as mobile phones and computers is very high. So, our brain thinks that it is still daytime because of the brightness of these screens and the Melatonin hormone does not get secreted. That keeps us awake at night.



We may experience difficulty in sleeping at night when Melatonin in our body is less. If we are awake at night as well as during the day, we will not get the required time of rest needed. It is said that electronic screens should be kept away at least three hours before sleeping.

In these hard times, when COVID-19 is still at large in our country, we have to continue our studies with the use of electronic devices. But remember not to use them till late at night because your night may turn into a sleepless one.

Sandali Hapuarachchi
(14 years)
Sanghamiththa B. V., Galle

NOTE

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

FUNDAY TIMES Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Enter the World Food Day Poster Contest!

Find out more at fao.org/world-food-day



World Maritime Day 2021

By Cecilia Hewavitharana

Most households in the world are likely to have at least one item (or part of an item) that has landed there after sailing across the ocean in a container ship. Shipping is responsible for transporting more than 80% of goods traded internationally (from food to electronics to medicine) as it is the most cost-effective method of doing so.

Around 2 million seafarers serve on merchant ships around the world to make that possible, but it is not always smooth sailing for them, which is why the theme of World Maritime Day 2021 is “Seafarers at the core of shipping’s future” – to raise awareness of the importance of seafarers to the world, as well as the topics relevant to seafarers, such as safety, environmental protection, diversity (promoting seafaring careers for women) and the future of shipping in an increasingly automated and digital world.



World Maritime Day is usually held on the last Thursday of September and falls on the 30th this year.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is the United Nations’ specialised agency responsible for the safety of shipping and prevention of pollution by ships.

Safety

Seafarers often work 10 – 12 hour shifts seven days a week and need to go home after a few months, both for their well-being and the safe operation of the ship. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions, many seafarers have been stranded on ships or been unable to join ships to replace the outgoing crew. The maximum length of a seafarer’s contract is 11 months, but some have not been able to go home for 18 months.

A number of international treaties, regulations and standards (covering maritime traffic and the carriage of dangerous goods, among others) are in place to ensure that shipping is as safe as humanly possible.

Nothing highlights the importance of safety measures like a disaster caused by the lack of them. One cannot talk of maritime disasters without mentioning the ‘unsinkable’ RMS Titanic, which hit an iceberg during its maiden voyage in 1912 and sank into the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. But is it relevant here? Yes. More lives could have been saved that night had there been enough lifeboats to carry all those on board.



RMS Titanic



MV Doña Paz

The deadliest peacetime maritime disaster in history is the collision between a passenger ferry, MV Doña Paz, and an oil tanker, MT Vector, off the coast of the Philippines on a clear day in 1987. No senior officers were on the bridge of the Doña Paz, there was no lookout on the Vector and both the ships were likely without a functioning radio. The oil and gasoline on board the Vector ignited and both ships were engulfed in flames. Out of a combined 4,400+ passengers and crew, only 26 were rescued.

Environmental Protection

While oil spills and shipwrecks occasionally cause a lot of damage to the environment, the constant use of fuel oil (or bunker oil) produces over 1 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Various regulations have been implemented to try to curb the emissions, but a more interesting solution is one inspired by the past: the SV Golden Horizon, the world’s largest square-rigged sailing vessel, which uses wind and currents whenever possible, instead of its engines.



SV Golden Horizon



Please send competition entries to:

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

Please note that competition entries (except Reeves Art) are accepted by email.

Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name (including Surname),
Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for weekly competitions:

October 13, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



The power of imagination makes us INFINITE!

Maths in Action 57

By R. N. A. de Silva

Infinity is sometimes understood as an incredibly large number, but it is not really a number.

It is the concept of never ending and unbounded. Infinity cannot be measured. The symbol for infinity, ∞ , which is like the symbol for 8 written horizontally, was invented by English mathematician John Wallis in 1655. The idea of infinity comes up in Mathematics regularly.

You may have used pi (π) when dealing with circles. Mathematicians call pi as an infinite decimal as the digits go on forever after the decimal point. The same happens when you write numbers such as $1/3$ as a decimal. A line consists of an infinite number of points. A number line extends in both directions without end.

The German mathematician Georg Cantor, who created Set Theory, was the first mathematician to realize that there are different sizes of infinity, which he named as cardinalities. He called the cardinality of the set of natural numbers (positive whole numbers) as Aleph 0 (\aleph_0) - Aleph is the Hebrew letter A.

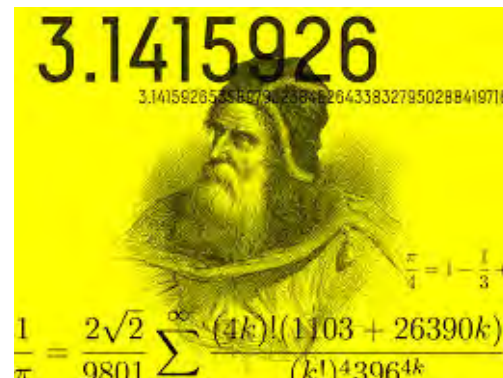
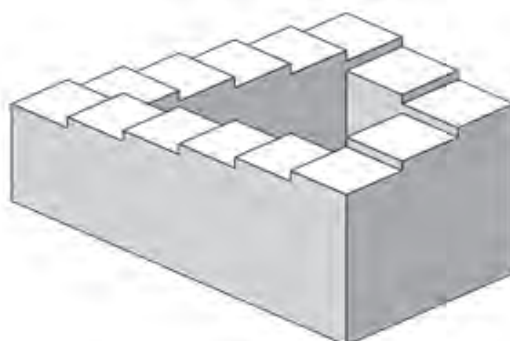
He also found that the set of real numbers has a bigger cardinality. He wanted to check whether the cardinality of the set of real numbers is the next bigger cardinality after Aleph 0 but was not successful. This is now known as the Continuum Hypothesis.



An infinitely small value is called an infinitesimal. It is a quantity that is closer to 0 than any standard real number. The use of infinitesimals helped in the development of calculus.

The Dutch graphic artist M. C. Escher depicted explorations of infinity through his artwork, some of which are reproduced in this page.

For mathematical operations, the following properties can be used.
 $\infty + \infty = \infty$ and $\infty \cdot \infty = \infty$
but $\infty - \infty$ and $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ are called indeterminate forms as they do not have fixed values.



Math Plot - 57

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to ndesilva@osc.lk within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

Consider a clock showing the time 1:23, where each number is one bigger than the number to its left. What are the other times between 0:00 and 12:59, when numbers are placed in a similar manner?

Math Plot 56 – Solution

The answer is '09'

The winner is
Yonal Batuwita of
St. Joseph's College, Colombo.
Congratulations!

Tomahawk

Quiz No.187

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 187 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2021. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 187' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners

will receive brand new

Tomahawk Mountain Bikes

with the compliments of

Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 - 15 years are eligible to participate.

(Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: September 30, 2021



Or



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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 187

1. What is the production and emission of light by a living organism called?
2. Name two groups of Indigenous Peoples who live in North America.
3. Which king first built the Dalada Madura that can be seen in Kandy today?
4. What is the Summer Paralympics and in which year did Sri Lanka first compete?
5. State how to differentiate between a maze and a labyrinth.

Cartoon Time!

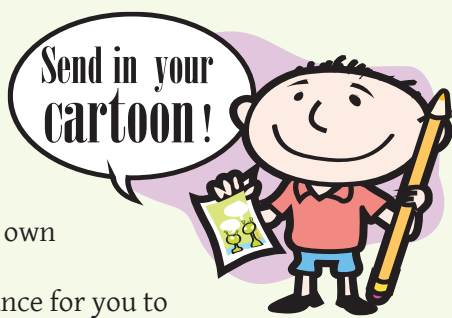
Hey Kids!
We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what's more they will be your own cartoons.

So, here's a chance for you to try your hand at producing your very own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption. It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes). The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times. So good luck to all you cartoon fans!

Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything.

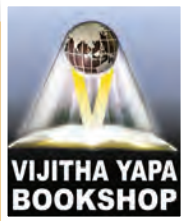
They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.



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Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it. What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book. The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop. Three winners will be selected each month.

Your account should not exceed 200 words.
Please indicate word count.
Please fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.



Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

September 21

Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future strike returns

Greta Thunberg has told kids that you should "talk to your parents and talk to the adults around you," to help save the environment.

The Swedish teenager became a household name in 2018 after she skipped school and inspired an international movement to fight climate change.

Speaking ahead of a new documentary series about her, Greta said: "To all the kids who are watching and want to get involved and take action



for the climate and for the environment, I will say that there are countless things that you can do. One thing you can do, which is very important, is to talk to your parents and talk to the adults

around you and try to influence them. That's how I got started, at least".

"And then there are always things you can do in your everyday life. You can start to pick up litter outside, you can start to attend marches, get organised and meet up with friends who think the same way.

"But my number one advice would be to read about [climate change] and to try to understand the problem and to share that information with the adults around you," she added.

Message in a bottle from Japan found 37 years later

A message in a bottle has been found in Hawaii, 37 years after it was released by students in Japan!

The glass bottle was originally thrown into the sea by a group of students from Choshi High School in Japan in 1984 as part of a science club project to investigate how ocean currents worked. In total, they released 750 bottles into the sea between 1984 and 1985 as part of their experiment.

Earlier this year in June, one of the bottles was discovered on a beach in Hawaii by 9-year-old Abbie – 37 years after it was thrown into the sea! Inside the bottle were messages in Japanese, English and Portuguese with

the address of the school for replies.

Abbie sent a message back to the school, along with a drawing of her and her sister eating sushi in September.

Jun Hayashi – the Vice Principal of Choshi High School said: "We thought the last one was found in Kikaijima. We never imagined another would be found 37 years on."

Mayumi Kanda who was part of the 1984 science club said: "I was surprised, it revived nostalgic memories of my high school days. I thank those involved."

Since 1984, 51 bottles (including Abbie's) have been found in 17 different places all over the world, including the



Japanese island of Okinawa, China, the Philippines and the west coast of the USA.

Two students at the school wrote letters of appreciation to Abbie for sending the note back.

Meanwhile, Abbie has said the experience has inspired her to go hunting for more messages in bottles.

Durian: Smelly fruit leftovers used to make bandages

Scientists have discovered a solution to a food waste problem by turning discarded durian fruit into antibacterial gel bandages.

Durian is a tropical fruit found in Southeast Asia and the husk – the outer shell – isn't eaten so it can generate a lot of waste.

Researchers at Nanyang Technological University (NTU)



in Singapore have discovered that the fruits' husks can be used to make a soft gel which can be cut into bandages of various shapes and sizes.

"In Singapore, we consume about 12 million durians a year, so besides the flesh, we can't do much about the husk and the seeds and this causes environmental pollution," said Professor William Chen from the NTU.

The fruit's husks, which make up half of the durian, are usually thrown away or burnt, which adds to the environmental waste.

The scientists use a low-cost process to take cellulose – the main substance in the walls of plant cells – to create a soft gel sheet which can be cut into bandages. They also add a substance, known as natural

yeast phenolics, which make the bandage deadly to bacteria.

These bandages are better than regular bandages, at keeping the wound area cooler and moist, which helps speed up healing.

Another benefit is this process is cheaper too because usually bandages are made from more expensive materials like silver or copper ions which normally help fight bacteria.

Fun Facts

- ◆ Durian fruit is really smelly! It's known for its strong scent.
- ◆ It's a tropical fruit that has a spiky hard outer shell, also called a husk.
- ◆ They can be about the size of a football.

Source: CBBC Newsround

September 21

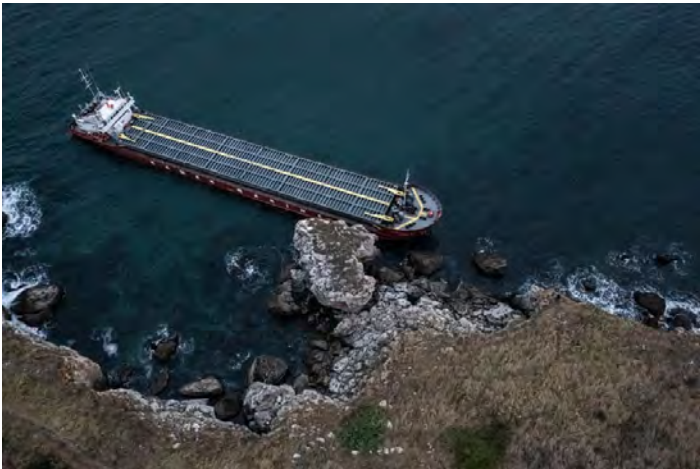
News in Pictures



Montreal, Canada
Justin Trudeau, his wife, Sophie Gregoire, and their children Ella-Grace and Xavier at an election night party. Trudeau's Liberal Party narrowly won the snap election that sent Canadians to the polls for the second time in two years.



La Palma, Spain
Hot lava reaches an irrigation pond after the eruption on Sunday of a volcano in the Canaries.

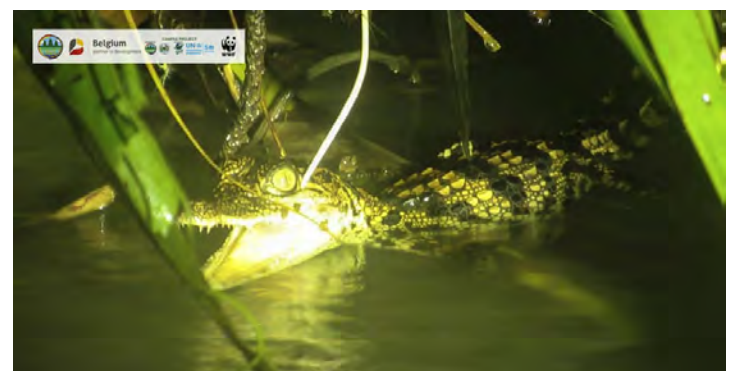


Kamen Bryag, Bulgaria
A cargo ship with 20 tons of fuel onboard is stranded. A diving group is expected to inspect the hull before the vessel is moved.

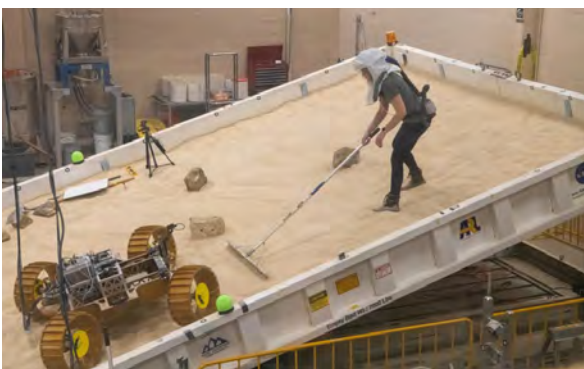
Quito, Ecuador
Indigenous people celebrate the Festival of the Moon or Kulla Raymi. It is one of the four most significant festivals of the Andean calendar, which commemorates the beginning of life and exalts women as the maximum representation of fertility.



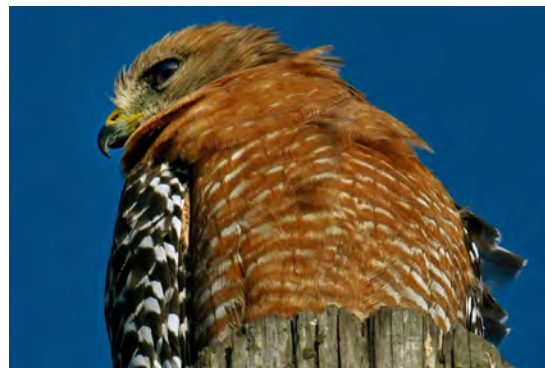
Ghaziabad, India
Passengers cling to a crowded train as it leaves a station.



Srepok, Cambodia
A Siamese crocodile at Srepok wildlife sanctuary in Mondulkiri province; eight hatchlings from one of the world's rarest crocodile species have been found, raising hopes for its continuing survival in the wild.



Cleveland, Ohio, USA
An engineering model of NASA's Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) is tested in the Simulated Lunar Operations Laboratory at Glenn Research Center. The large, adjustable soil bin contains lunar simulant and allows engineers to mimic the moon's terrain.



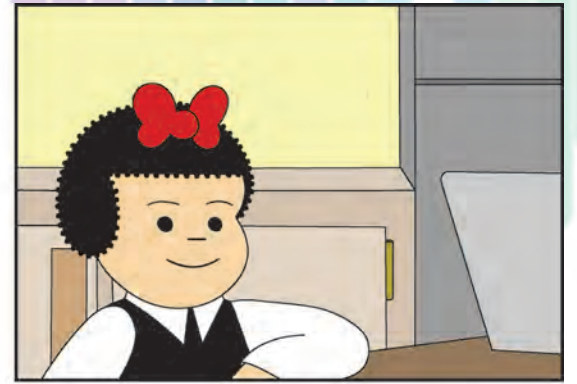
California, USA
A red-shouldered Hawk watches for prey. Their hunting range spans Eastern North America and along the coast of California and Northern to Northeastern-central Mexico.



Varna, Bulgaria
An archaeologist shows the original state emblem of the Kingdom of Bulgaria from the 14th century which was discovered during excavations in the Avren region.

Source: The Guardian

nancy



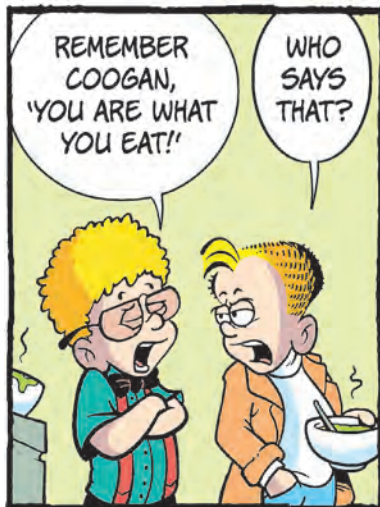
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