



# FUN DAY

## TIMES



**A fun Car Race**

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

### WINNERS!

**POETRY & ESSAYS**  
PAGES 2 & 6



**STORY**  
PAGE 3

**(ONLINE)**




**FAMOUS PEOPLE**  
PAGE 5

### KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8





**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 are accepted by email.**

**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 Number 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 this week's competitions:**  
**July 31, 2024**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**  
**Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)**





**Age groups:**  
**6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years**  
**Word limit: 100 Words**

**This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.**

**6 – 10 years**

**Rainbow flowers**  
 Flowers are amazing in different colours,  
 Like in every rainbow,  
 Some flowers are bright, tall and shiny,  
 While the others are big or tiny.

Try to water it daily,  
 By not letting it dry,  
 If you let it dry you will cry,  
 For your lovely flowers.

Some flowers mix colours together,  
 To make a beautiful flower,  
 If you have your rainbow garden,  
 Just see it every day.

Or it will fade soon,  
 When the time comes,  
 See it and be happy,  
 Make your life filled with rainbow flowers again.

**Abirnaya Skantharooa**  
**Methodist College, Colombo 3**

**11 – 15 years**

**Unique Winter**  
 Before an era,  
 And many aeons ago,  
 In the mighty earth,  
 The winter ruled the realms,  
 And it seems,  
 That the cold zephyr blows,  
 And the moonlight glows,  
 Once a blue moon,  
 The winter comes soon,  
 For many aeons,  
 To the mighty realm of Earth,  
 And a massive creature's birth,  
 A fluffy mammal,  
 With a beary body,  
 And an elephant trunk,  
 And before aeons,  
 Sunk in the icy hills,  
 And fills,  
 The glaciers of Earth,  
 The mighty mammoth dwelled on Earth,  
 Before the era of man,  
 A unique history of winter,  
 That is bitter,  
 Was in Earth,  
 The mighty Earth.

**Akeef Ahamed**  
**Royal Int. School, Kurunegala**


**WINNERS!**

Please write the date at the top of your entry.

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

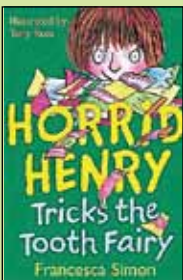

 or  [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

**Win super books from**




**Age: 9 years and below**  
**Word Count: 150**  
**Topic: My school sports meet**  
**Win: Horrid Henry tricks the Tooth Fairy by Francesca Simon**

It's Horrid Henry's chance to get rich! So Henry sets out to trick the tooth fairy, with hilarious results. Not content with causing havoc at home, Henry then ruins Moody Margaret's sleepover, sabotages a wedding... and makes all his teachers run screaming from school!


**Age: 10 – 12 years**  
**Word Count: 150 – 200**  
**Topic: Our Solar System**  
**Win: Five have a wonderful time by Enid Blyton**

The Five are on a caravanning holiday when they spy a ruined castle on top of a hill. Then they spot a desperate face in the tower window... and an adventure beckons. Who is hiding inside the castle – and why?



**Age: 13 – 15 years**  
**Word Count: 200 – 250**  
**Topic: Alternative energy sources**  
**Win: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J. K. Rowling**

It's another far-from-ordinary year at Hogwarts for Harry Potter. Sirius Black, escaped mass-murderer, is on the run and they say he is coming after Harry. But perhaps most terrifying of all, there are Dementors patrolling the school grounds, with their soul-sucking kiss!



**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

**Book Competition WINNERS!**

<p><b>9 years and below</b></p> <p><i>How I can care for my environment</i>  <b>Seja Abeywickrama</b>                  Southlands College, Galle</p>	<p><b>13 – 15 years</b></p> <p><i>What I know about 'World Food Safety Day'</i>  <b>Aysha Manaal</b>                  Ilma Int. Girls' School</p>
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**NOTE**

Please see Page 6 in the online edition for the winning Book Competition essays.

# Paper Bags

By Manoshi De Silva

Saviru put a batch of freshly made paper bags into the basket fixed onto his bicycle. He then started peddling towards the small shops at the junction. His neighbour and classmate, Kavinga was by the road, flying a kite with a few other boys. Kavinga had noticed Saviru taking paper bags to the shops a few times previously and getting paid by the shop owners. “So that’s how he earns his pocket money,” thought Kavinga, feeling rather jealous about it.

As Saviru cycled near, Kavinga stood in the middle of the road blocking his way. “Here comes Mr. Paper Bag!” he shouted mockingly at Saviru. All the boys gathered around Saviru’s bike. “So what is all this?” asked Kavinga pulling out a few paper bags from the neatly packed lot. The other boys also started pulling out the paper bags and dropping them on the road. “Please don’t pull those. I spent a lot of time making them!” pleaded Saviru and the boys laughed at him.

“So what are you planning on buying with the money you earn by selling these?” asked Kavinga in a mocking voice, “A car or an airplane?” Saviru sat on his seat and tried to ride away. “Oh no you don’t!” shouted Kavinga and he and the other boys pulled out all the paper bags and dumped them in a nearby drain. They giggled as Saviru pushed his bike back home, empty-handed and sad.

From that day on, Kavinga started to tease Saviru at school as well. Every time he saw Saviru, he shouted, “Mr. Paper Bag!” and the rest of the boys also started bullying him. Kavinga thought that their teasing would stop Saviru from making and selling paper bags. But surprisingly it didn’t. Saviru continued to make paper bags even when the others teased him. “But why does he still do it?” wondered Kavinga. “His father has a good job and they have enough money. Maybe he wants to buy something... but what?”

The school ‘Science Day’ was around the corner. The boys were given an opportunity to present something they invented or to share anything that they thought was important, with the rest

of the school. “What are you going to present?” asked Malith, Kavinga’s best friend. “Nothing,” replied Kavinga. “I don’t have anything. What about you guys?” None of Kavinga’s friends had anything worthwhile to present.

On the ‘Science Day’ all the students assembled at the college ground. There was a stage with mikes, and the Chief Guest, Principal and all the teachers were seated at the front. “The Chief Guest is a famous scientist. I have seen him on TV. That’s how I recognized him!” whispered Malith “Yes, he’s so popular, everyone knows him. We should get his autograph!” said Kavinga and his friends agreed.

One by one the students were invited on stage to make their presentations to the audience. There was a gift to be awarded for the best presentation. There were so many impressive things presented by the students. It was difficult to guess who would win the best prize. Finally Saviru’s name was announced, inviting him to make his presentation. “I didn’t think he would take part!” said Malith as the boys stared at each other in surprise. “What is Mr. Paper Bag going to present?” asked Kavinga. “Maybe his paper bags?” replied Malith and the boys howled and laughed.

Saviru stood confidently in front of the mike. “Today I am going to talk about this!” he said holding up a paper bag. “What? He can’t be serious!” gasped Kavinga. “This must be a joke!” said the other boys. The ground was filled with whispers and giggles. “Yes, this simple paper bag can make a huge difference!” said Saviru, not losing his confidence. Then he went on to explain how plastic and polythene has taken over the world. How much of it is polluting the soil and how it takes hundreds of years for a plastic bag to decay. He explained how they block the waterways and finally end up in the sea. By now there was pin-drop silence in the audience.

“I am doing what I can, at my level, to make a change,” continued Saviru.



“I can’t stop plastic and polythene usage completely. But by making paper bags with used paper, I am stopping the usage of polythene bags even by a small percentage. And if others can also use more paper or cloth bags, then we can reduce the usage of polythene even more.” The Chief Guest nodded, looking very impressed. “This way, used paper gets recycled and turned into something useful and environmental-friendly! So by taking small steps we will be making a positive change in our world,” continued Saviru.

“And that’s not all. The little amount of money I earn by making paper bags is donated monthly to the small ‘Environmental Protection Club’ we have in my town. With the collected money we clean the surrounding areas by gathering non-biodegradable waste and sending some of it to be recycled.”

As Saviru finished his speech, the Chief Guest stood up clapping and so did all the teachers. Saviru received the gift for the best presentation and the applause of the audience lasted for a long time.

Kavinga and his friends felt ashamed of themselves. “We were so wrong!” said Malith. “He’s a hero, although we treated him so badly.” The other boys also agreed as they also felt very guilty. So they went and met Saviru and apologized to him. “We would love to help you make more paper bags,” said Kavinga, “I now realize that even a small step counts. Thank you for teaching that to us.”

So from that day on, Kavinga and the boys joined Saviru, and together they made lots of paper bags, knowing that even the small change made by them, was a positive contribution to the environment.





# 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Funday Times celebrates 24 years in August this year. We now have eight pages – four in print and four additional pages online. The [fundaytimes.lk](http://fundaytimes.lk) website is also up and running. We thank all our readers for being with us through the years.

To mark the Anniversary, we are planning an Essay and Art Competition for all our young readers.

## Essay Competition

**Age Group: 9 years and below**

**Topic:** My favourite hobby

**Word Count:** 150 - 200

**Age Group: 10 – 12 years**

**Topic:** Why I like to read

**Word Count:** 200 – 250

**Age Group: 13 – 15 years**

**Topic:** Pros and cons of digital reading and art

**Word Count:** 250 – 300

## Art / Digital Art Competition

**Age Groups:**

4 – 7 years and 8 – 15 years

Entries for Art Competition could be sent on any topic of your choice. The topic should be clearly stated on your entry. You could use any art medium such as paints, crayons etc., or Digital media.



Entries for Essay and Art should include; Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School.

**All entries should be certified by a parent or teacher as your own original work. Winners will be awarded attractive prizes!**



or

[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

**Closing Date: August 10, 2024**

### In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Famous People
- **Page 6** – Book Competition Essays
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.



The annual Inter House Athletic Meet 2024 of St. Mary's Tamil Maha Vidyalaya, Colombo 4 was held on June 20, at the Sugathdasa Stadium.



**Fathima Nazrath Imthiyaz**  
9 years on July 17

## Happy Birthday

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.



Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



# Bernard Shaw

**George Bernard Shaw was a famous Irish writer. He is best known for his plays, particularly 'Pygmalion', 'Man and Superman', and 'Arms and the Man'.**

## Early Life

Shaw was born on July 26, 1856, in Dublin, Ireland. He did not like school so he left at an early age to go to work. In 1876, Shaw decided to become a writer and moved to London, where his mother and sister had already settled.

In the following years, Shaw wrote novels but could not get anyone to publish them. He had very little money. He spent most of his days in the British Museum Reading Room, writing, thinking and studying to make up for his lack of education.

## Career

In the 1880s, Shaw continued to struggle to have his novels published, but he became interested in several causes that kept him busy. One of those causes was Socialism. He wanted to see changes in British society. Shaw became an early member of a group called the Fabian Society that shared his views. The group was devoted to establishing socialism in Britain. They gave lectures and published essays to promote their cause.

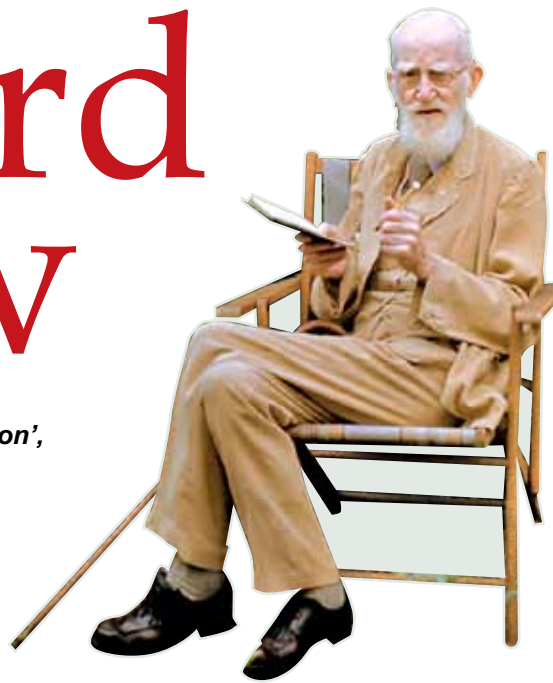
In the 1880s Shaw also found work as a journalist, theatre critic and playwright. He began to achieve recognition for his work.

George Bernard Shaw's plays were quite different than the other plays being performed at the time. They often made comments about the social culture of the time, touched on tragedy, and explored human relationships. They contained wit and humour too.

One of Shaw's most popular plays is 'Pygmalion', which was written in 1912. The play was filmed in 1938. A musical version of the play, 'My Fair Lady', was first produced on stage in 1956 and filmed in 1964. The play examines the culture of class in Britain and the way society treats people differently depending on their economic status.

## Honours and Later Life

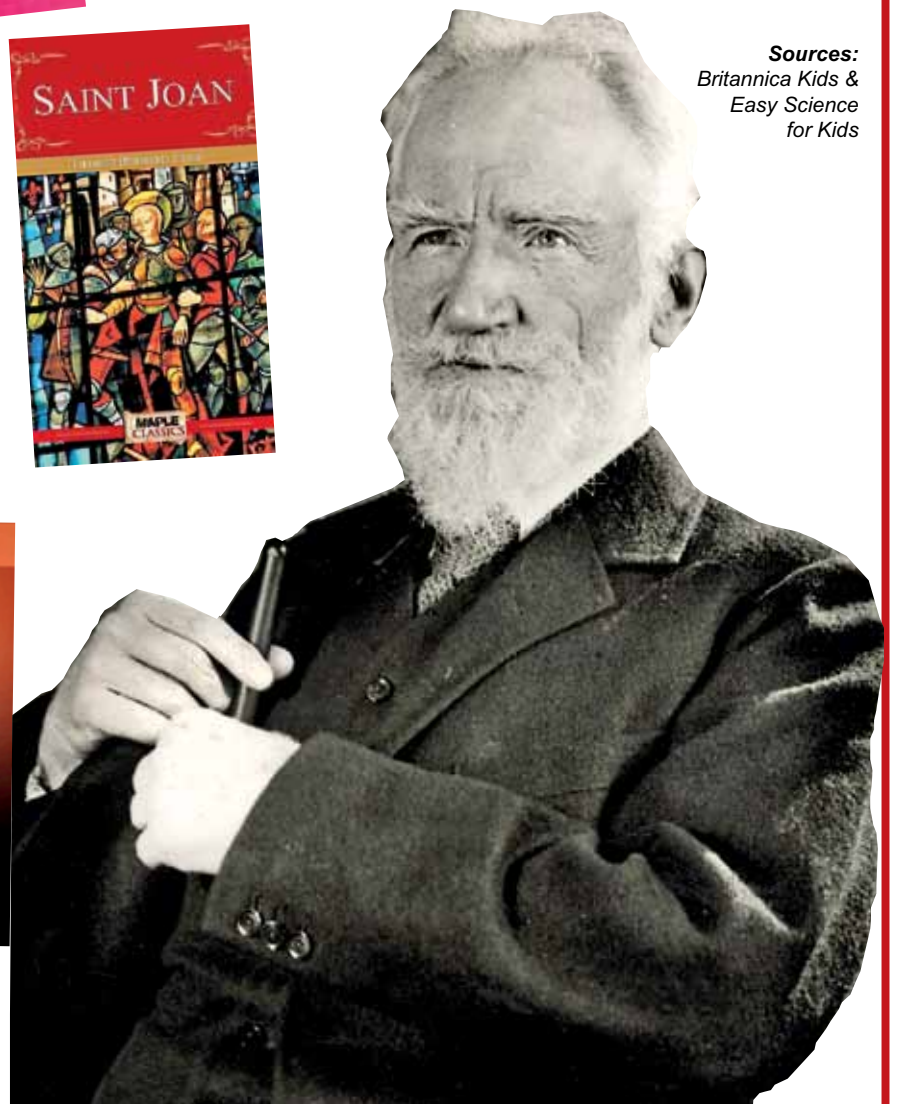
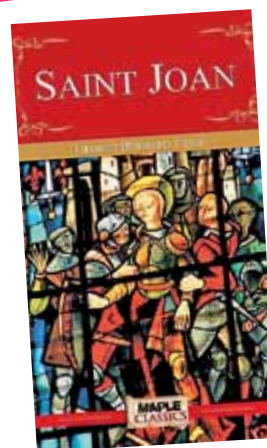
Shaw won the 1938 Academy Award for his screenplay of 'Pygmalion'. He also won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925. He continued writing plays into his 90s. He also wrote many letters and essays.



Poster for Pygmalion (1938)

## Quick Facts

- Shaw is one of only two people to have won both an Academy Award and a Nobel Prize for Literature. Shaw won his Oscar in 1939 for Best Writing, Screenplay for his role in adapting his own play 'Pygmalion' for the screen. 'Pygmalion' would go on to be remade as the wildly successful musical and film 'My Fair Lady'.
- He did not like 'George' in his name and insisted that people call him just Bernard Shaw.
- Shaw wrote a total of five novels during 1876 to 1884.
- From 1892 to 1947, he wrote drama. He completed 'Buoyant Billions' at the age of 91 years.
- He passed away on November 2, 1950 at the age of 94.



Sources:  
Britannica Kids &  
Easy Science  
for Kids

*George Bernard Shaw*

**9 years and below**

**How I can care for my environment**

The Environment is the best gift from nature. It is our responsibility to protect it for the future generations.

First let's start it from our home. We can put organic waste from our kitchen into a compost bin. After that we can use that compost fertilizer for home gardening. This compost fertilizer isn't harmful for the environment.

When we go to the supermarket, let's take an eco-friendly bag. Also we can motivate people to reduce, reuse and recycle polythene and plastic packaging. Then we can minimize polythene waste in the environment. We can also keep separate dustbins in common places like parks, bus stands and railway stations and throw away all rubbish into them and help to keep the environment clean.

Let's plant and save trees whenever possible. If we plant more trees, it will help the environment. In addition to that we shouldn't let others cut trees.

We get several benefits from the environment itself. Therefore as small children, let's be against the harmful human activities that destroy the environment.

**Seja Abeywickrama (9 years)**  
Southlands College, Galle

**Book Competition**



**13 – 15 years What I know about 'World Food Safety Day'**

*"We can't achieve sustainable development without addressing food safety and public health."*

– Gro Harlem Brundtland

World Food Safety Day is celebrated every year on June 7, to highlight the importance of safe food and how it affects our health and well-being. The primary goal of World Food Safety Day is to raise awareness about food safety and prevent food-borne illnesses.

As we all know, safe food is the key to ensuring our survival and to lead a healthy life. The consumption of unsafe food has led to approximately 600 million cases of food-borne diseases every year. In our modern world, food-borne illnesses have become a part of everyday life.

Governments, businesses and individuals play key roles in maintaining food safety standards to protect consumers.

On this day, awareness campaigns are held worldwide to educate people about their rights to consume safe food and the steps they can take to reduce food-borne illnesses. Furthermore, collaboration between organizations is encouraged to address food safety practices.

As members of our society, we should promote safe food practices and educate others about World Food Safety Day. By raising awareness of food safety, we can pave the way for a healthier and more secure world.

**Aysha Manaal (14 years)**  
Ilma Int. Girls' School

**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 recent 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.



**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, fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.**

**Read-a-Book for June**



**10 – 12 years**

**Senuri Gunawardana**  
*Judy Moody – Around the World in 8 1/2 Days*  
by Megan McDonald

**13 – 15 years**

**Bivoni Fernando**  
*The Midnight Gang*  
by David Walliams

**Read-a-Book Competition**

Name : .....

.....

Date of birth : .....

.....

Address : .....

.....

.....

School: .....

Tel: .....

Finished book on : .....

.....





## 'Ready, steady, slow!' Snails World Championship

July 8, 2024

When it comes to any type of racing, whether it's on sports day or competing with friends, the goal is to be as speedy as possible.

But what happens when the competitors actually go 'at a snail's pace'?

Well people in Norfolk are about to find out as they get ready for the Snail Racing World Championships this weekend.

They'll be putting their best shells forward to show who is the fastest-moving mollusc.

### How does snail racing work?

The annual Snail Racing World Championships started in the small village of Congham, Norfolk in the 1960s.

The snail master starts the races by shouting: "Ready, steady, SLOW!" and off dash the snails.



Who will make it to the finish slime first?



The snails race from one part of the board to another.

The shelled creatures compete across a round table, trailing a slow course between a small red inner circle to a large black outer circle.

The winner of each heat will make it to the grand final.

The snail master keeps the course 'well-watered' as the molluscs like damp conditions.

While some might think it's easy to keep track of the super slow competitors, the organisers say they find some snails "liked to cheat" and "try to hitch a ride on the back of others."

This time around 200 entrants are expected to compete for a "very juicy bunch of Romaine lettuce."



Some naughty snails try to "hitch a lift".

easily spotted as they slither along the 13.5-inch course.

Owners can dress up and can give their snails names like, Speedy or Zoomer.

Snail master Nicholas Dickinson said: "We have a lot of snails in our own stable, which we make available for hire so anyone can enter."

Nicholas says his favourite name from a few years ago was "Uslime Bolt."

### Who is the fastest-moving snail?

The world record stands at two minutes over the 13 inch course.

It was set in 1995 by a snail called Archie who, 29 years later, still proves that slow and steady wins the race.



### How do you train a snail?

Organisers say to train snails you need to feed them well, leading up to the competition.

They need something green like lettuce or cucumber that's "good for them to gorge on."

Some people spend weeks preparing for the event and paint their snails' shells so they can be

## Otter-ly amazing! The 'otter hospital' to care for cubs

July 8, 2024

We all need some care when we're not well, and otters are no different.

In fact, the UK Wild Otter Trust is building a dedicated Otter Hospital to help baby otters, called cubs.

The Trust, based in Devon, takes in otters from across the British Isles.

But it says it's running out of space to treat wild animals and wants to build a new facility, as there's an increase in the number of cubs needing help.

### Why do otter cubs need rescuing?

Otters are semiaquatic mammals, which means they live in both water and on land.

Flooding is one of the big problems separating cubs from their mothers, as overflowing rivers can wash away their homes and the cubs themselves.

Rivers bursting their banks leads to problems for other wildlife too, so their food chain is affected.



Hattie the otter cub being rescued.

The Wild Otter Trust has already rescued 19 cubs and released eight back into the wild so far this year.

Source : CBBC Newsround



July 9

# News in Pictures



**London, England**  
Pumpkin (2024), a new large-scale sculpture by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, is installed by the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens as part of the Serpentine gallery's public art presentations.



**Montreux, Switzerland**  
Smoke rises towards the stage on Lake Geneva as part of a show by British rock band Deep Purple as they perform their iconic 'Smoke on the Water' gig during the 58<sup>th</sup> Montreux Jazz Festival.



**London, England**  
The new Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, meets Scottish Labour MPs outside 10 Downing Street.

**Trujillo, Peru**  
A drone image shows archaeologists working on a site where they have discovered the remains of what are believed to be wealthy members of the Chimu civilisation, a pre-Inca society from the arid plains nestled between the Pacific Ocean and Andes mountains.



July 8



**Wuhan, China**  
A father and child walk through the flooded Hankou Riverbank Park. Rising water levels in the Yangtze River after intense rain have prompted eastern regions downstream to prepare for possible flooding.



**Kyiv, Ukraine**  
Rescuers at work at Ohmatdyt children's hospital, which was damaged by a Russian missile strike.

**London, England**  
David Lammy, the UK Foreign Secretary, greets his Canadian counterpart, Mélanie Joly, in Carlton House Terrace.



**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
A person carries a figurine of Zé Pilintra, a popular entity in Afro-Brazilian cults considered a symbol of trickery and patron spirit of bars.



**Death Valley, California**  
A heat warning sign on the Salt Flats at Badwater Basin.

Source : The Guardian