

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
JULY 28, 2024



# FUN DAY

## TIMES



**Abacus Olympiad Winners**

Pic. by T. K. G. Kapila

**KIDS'**  
**WORLD**

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**FUN STUFF**

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**(ONLINE)**



**REPORT**

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**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.**

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

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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

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

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address,  
Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

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

**Closing date for this week's competitions:**

**August 14, 2024**



Up, up and away



**Netana Krause (5 years)**  
Ladies' College, Colombo

**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Young Reporter
- **Page 6** – Crafts
- **Pages 7 & 8** – Kids News

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.

**Collage**



**Aalif Zahir (12 years)**  
Royal College, Colombo

**The Jungle**



**Ayaad Naseem (7 years)**  
St. Anthony's College, Wattala

**Words**

Sometimes all I want to do is  
Dive right into the great blue ocean  
Find the murky depths of it  
And find my peace there  
In the eternal silence of the sea...

Sometimes all I want to do is  
Walk a rainy forest  
Smell its enchanting scents  
Find a huge oak tree  
And walk right through it  
To another hushed world...

Gazing out of the bus window  
Sighing at the gentle breeze  
Feasting my tired eyes on  
The beautiful green trees and  
The ever glorious sunset  
"If only this timeless moment  
could last forever..."

Do memories always have to be bittersweet?  
Time flows fast when they are made  
But whenever they are reminisced  
Every single detail comes flooding back, slowly.  
"These memories, I keep them safely  
in my heart, for I couldn't have made them  
without you."

**Ruzaina Junkeer (15 years)**  
Buddhist Ladies' College, Colombo

**Roots, plants and trees**

In our world, all plants and trees play an important role in our daily survival. Here are some interesting facts about plants...

There are five parts of a plant; roots, stem, flowers, fruits and leaves.

The roots help the plant get anchored to the ground and absorb the nutrition that the plant needs. There are two types of roots; the Tap root and the Fibrous root.

The stem holds all the parts of the tree together and passes on the nutrition of the plants needs. The flowers help in the activity of reproduction. The fruit help store extra food of the plant, in the end it becomes the food we consume today. The leaves produce food for the plant.

Leaves also come in a magnificent way. They come in various shapes, colours and sizes. The different parts

of the leaf are, the petiole which is also known as the leaf stalk, the midrib which is the main vein, the lamina, the leaf tip and the leaf margin. There are flat leaves, divided leaves, narrow and long leaves and even leaves with leaflets.

Just like the leaves, the tree trunks also are different in their structures. Some trunks are very strong while others are very weak. The strong trunks are used to make furniture. Weak trunks grow on other trees or along the ground. There are two types of trunks; Branching trunks and Unbranching trunks.

As plants provide us with oxygen which is essential to all living beings, it is our responsibility to take care of them. We must care for plants at any cost.

**Senuri Gunawardana (10 years)**  
Methodist College, Colombo



**A Balloon Seller**



**Himath Kovida (Grade 2)**  
President's College, Embilipitiya

**Evening Beach**



**Tharusha Heshan (Grade 4)**  
Kegalu Vidyalaya

**My Family**



**Kenula Sehas (Grade 2)**  
Sri Bodhiraja Vidyalaya, Embilipitiya

**Rainbow Sky**



**Imanya Mathangaweera (6 years)**  
Thomas Gall School, Galle

**My country**

My country is Sri Lanka. It is an island in the Indian Ocean. It is called the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean.'

This is an agricultural country. Most of the people are farmers. Our staple food is rice. There are several communities in my country. They are the Sinhalese, the Tamils, the Muslims and the Burghers.

Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the capital of Sri Lanka. Our business centre is Colombo. Pidurutalagala is the highest mountain and Mahaweli is the longest river.

I love my country.

**Ayani Bandara (Grade 4)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**My village**

My village is a very pleasant, beautiful and tranquil area. My village isn't noisy. It is a calm and quiet place to live. I can't forget the village. My village is teaching so many lessons. It is a village always I can remember, where I was born.

The small and charming village where I live, has trees and bushes all in green, rivers and banks all in blue. All the paddy fields are breezy. They enhance the beauty of the village.

I like to live forever and ever, in my village. It is like a big treasure in the world.

**Nipunika Tharangani (15 years)**  
Swarnapali Girls' College, Anuradhapura

**My new class teacher**

My new class is Grade 2D. I have a new teacher for my class. My new teacher's name is Anusha. She is very kind to us. She teaches very nicely. She is also strict with us. We like our teacher very much.

**S. Rudran (Grade 2)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Please remember that **ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS** sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.

Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry. Articles should not exceed 200 words. Art should be on A4 size paper.



**World War One**

Far away at the distant war sounds coming from Verdun,  
French troops praying for Christ to spare them from the burden,  
While their loved ones pray to hope to see them again,  
While some of them will never come again.

Miserable tones of bagpipes to sign the battle has begun,  
Bullets and artillery sign the slaughter has begun,  
While their loved ones pray to hope to see them again,  
While some of them will never come again.

It is hell to live in dirty, muddy and wet trenches,  
For mice and diseases domain over them,  
For why do millions die for one single battle,  
For why don't we live in peace, Because killing a soldier is an act of murder.

**Joel Silva (Grade 8)**  
Boswell College Int., Kalutara

**The Sun**

The Sun is a star. The Sun gives us light. The Sun is a ball of fire.

It keeps us warm and gives us heat.

It is the centre of our Solar System.

The Sun rises in the East in the morning. The Sun sets in the West in the evening. Plants make their food with the help of sunlight. So I like the Sun very much.

**Kenuka (Grade 4)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle







# 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

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

## 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.

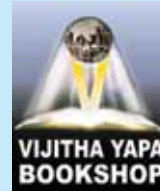


Entries for Essay and Art should include your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School. All entries should be certified by a parent or teacher as your own original work. Winners will be awarded attractive prizes!

**Closing Date: August 10, 2024**



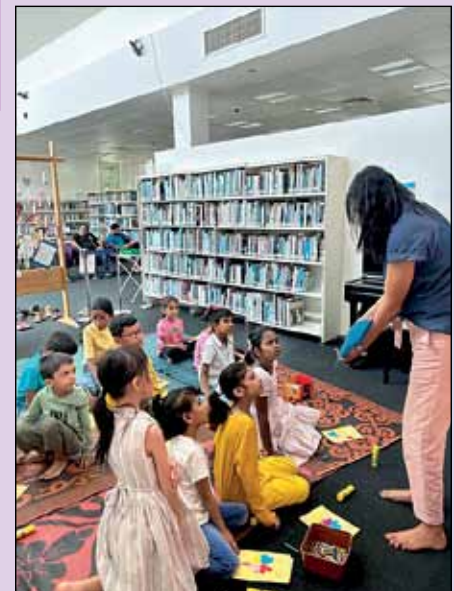
Prize Sponsors



## Friendship Day

The British Council Library in Colombo resonated with laughter and excitement as children gathered for a special storytelling session on July 20, in celebration of International Friendship Day.

This annual event, dedicated to fostering of brotherhood and understanding across borders, was marked with a tale that transcended cultures and sparked imaginations.



## Abacus International Olympiad 2024



Fifteen students who participated in the Abacus International Olympiad 2024 held in Mumbai, India on July 20 and 21, won 15 medals including one Gold, three Silver and 11 Bronze Medals, competing against 1,200 students from 18 countries including Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Iran.

Pawani Hasanga, a Grade Five student of Udupila Primary School, Kelaniya excelled at the tournament and won the Gold Medal in her age category.



Pix by T. K. G. Kapila



From a Funday Times Young Reporter

# The Taj Mahal

**A**s we all know, there are Seven Wonders of the World. UNESCO selects world heritage sites considering the masterwork and its cultural heritage.

Its time to embark on a journey to explore one of the breathtaking wonders in the world: the Taj Mahal!

The Taj Mahal was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Mogul emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal in India. It is a mosque and tomb in India and its chief architect was Ustad Ahmad Lahauri. It is considered as one of the most magnificent creations in the world and is a famous tourist attraction in India.

**Significance:**

Shah Jahan’s wife became ill after the birth of her 14<sup>th</sup> child and she asked her husband to make her the most beautiful tomb in the world. Mumtaz Mahal died on June 1631 and emperor Shah Jahan

started the construction of this amazing building.

**Construction:**

Precious stones were brought from other countries to adorn the building of Taj Mahal.

The building materials used were brick in lime mortar with red sandstone and marble including precious stones.

Every feature of the Taj Mahal is significant in its own way such as the lovely gardens, the minarets, the tomb, the gateway and the intricate inlay work of marble. *Pietra Dura* technique was used to decorate the Taj Mahal which consisted of floral and calligraphic inlays.



A significant feature is that the artwork was purely handmade by highly skilled artisans from Agra.

**Fun Facts**

- It took about 22 years to build the Taj Mahal
- It is made of pure white marble
- The gateway and mausoleum are beautified with Arabic calligraphy.
- Around 7 to 8 million people visit the Taj Mahal every year

Aysha Manaal (14 years)  
Ilma Int. Girls’ School



Marble inlay of Taj Mahal



## 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 who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.**



Or



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



## Young Reporters Coupon

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

School: .....

Parent’s approval: ..... Date: .....





## Paper Bag Kite

### You will need:

- ◆ Paper lunch bags
- ◆ Yarn or strong twine/string
- ◆ Popsicle stick
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Streamers
- ◆ Tape
- ◆ Embellishments: stickers, paint, markers, crayons, construction paper, washi tape

### Instructions

To get started, decorate the paper bags using a variety of embellishments. Stickers and washi tape work really well to add some fun prints and colours! You could also draw designs with markers and crayons or add polka dots and stripes using washable paints. Just make sure the paint is dry before moving on to the next step.



Using a pair of scissors, snip a little hole on the bottom base of the bag. This will be used for the kite string.

Cut a piece of yarn or string about 18 - 24 inches long. Tie one end to the middle of a popsicle stick and feed the other end through the hole in the bag. The popsicle stick will keep the kite string from pulling out when it's flying.



Attach streamers to the open end of the bag using tape. Now the kite is ready to fly!

- Typically simple

## How to make stickers

### You will need:

- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Colouring pencils or pens
- ◆ Clear parcel tape
- ◆ Wax paper
- ◆ Scissors

### Instructions

1. Draw your favourite things with felt tips or colouring pencils. Cut out around the outline of the pictures you want to turn into stickers.
2. Take a piece of wax paper and place some clear parcel tape on top.
3. Place the picture cutout on top of the parcel tape and top with another piece of tape. Press down to make sure the tape is stuck down around the drawing.
4. Cut around the edge of the sticker, making sure to leave an edge of sticky tape around the drawing, as this is what holds the sticker together.
5. When you're ready to use your sticker, peel away the wax paper backing. If it doesn't come away easily, you can score the back of the paper with a pair of scissors and peel off the wax paper from the tear.
6. If you're not ready to use the sticker, peel off the wax paper anyway. Take a large sheet of wax paper and apply all your stickers to this. When you're ready to use the stickers, it will be easier to remove the stickers from this.



- GoodtoKnow

## Rare whale spotted off Irish coast for first time in 114 years

July 21, 2024

A very rare whale has been spotted swimming off the coast of Ireland.

North Atlantic right whales are one of the world's most endangered whale species. It's thought there are fewer than 350 left in the wild.

According to the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG), one has been spotted swimming near Sliabh Liag, County Donegal.

IWDG said it was an "exceptionally rare record" and the last time this type of whale was seen around Ireland was in 1910.

### What's the North Atlantic right whale?

The North Atlantic right whale is usually found off the coast of North America.

They are like tanks in the water – heavy, wide and dense – as well as being curious, acrobatic animals who can be seen breaching the water and smacking it with their fluke, or tail.

North Atlantic rights have been listed as an endangered species since 1970 and humans have had a big impact on their numbers in the wild for centuries.

Most recently, heavily industrialised oceans and fishing practices are putting the ocean mammal in danger.

It's thought the magnificent creature could be extinct within the next 20 years.

### 'Please give it space'

The IWDG is asking people not to seek out the whale and to only observe it from the shore.

They said: "There is an enormous onus on us all to ensure this whale remains as long as it needs in Donegal bay, where it's most likely feeding on tiny copepods (tiny crustaceans) without having to run the gauntlet of small craft and sightseers," the group said.



The whale has been observed near Killybegs in County Donegal.

"As with all whales, they have full protection under Irish law... this is our chance to help a population of whales on the very brink. "Please give it space."

## Spacecraft will follow asteroid as it flies past Earth in 2029

July 19, 2024

A large asteroid will be heading past Earth in 2029, and NASA is going to follow it.

The asteroid – which is called 99942 Apophis – will pass within 19,900 miles of Earth. NASA will send a spacecraft to track the asteroid and move alongside it.

You might be able to see the asteroid when it goes past – experts think that around two million people in Europe and Africa will be able to spot it.

### Why are NASA and the ESA going to follow the asteroid?

Back in 2019, NASA announced a special new mission for protecting Earth against large asteroids.

The mission was tested with a project called DART, which stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

They tested hitting an asteroid with a rocket, to see if they could change the direction that it flies in.

It was hoped that if the mission was a success, then if an asteroid ever did come close to Earth, they could redirect it. And luckily, it was successful.



This is what Ramses – ESA's asteroid-following machine – could look like.

Now, the ESA (European Space Agency) wants to get involved and learn more about how we could divert asteroids.

But don't worry – it's important to remember that a big asteroid heading to Earth would be very, very rare!

### What's happening in 2029?

An asteroid named 99942 Apophis will do an impressive fly-past of Earth on April 13, 2029.

This mission is called 'Ramses' – which stands for Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety.

The ESA wants to make the most of the asteroid being so close by.



An asteroid is a big chunk of rock that floats through space, orbiting the Sun.



Asteroids are sometimes found in one area together, which is known as an Asteroid Belt.

They will send a spacecraft up to keep track of the asteroid, to try to learn more about how it moves close to Earth.

It will still be a whopping 19,000 miles from the planet, but it gives scientists a great chance to be 'up close' with an asteroid.



July 23

# News in Pictures



**Wistow, England**  
Wistow Maze is designed to represent heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson in the pose of throwing a javelin before the Olympic Games in Paris.



**Manila, Philippines**  
Motorcyclists ride through a flooded street in Manila amid heavy rains brought about by Typhoon Gaemi.

July 22

**Minamiboso, Japan**  
Sea-diving fisherpeople pray for an abundant catch in a traditional ceremony held by female free divers in Chiba prefecture.



**Williams Lake, Canada**  
Smoke and flames rise from a wildfire burning on the edge of the Cariboo region city of Williams Lake in British Columbia.



**Eldoret, Kenya**  
Members of the Kenya Wildlife Service try to control a giraffe that has been tranquillised and blindfolded during a translocation exercise for wild giraffes in a farm near Eldoret. In western Kenya, wild giraffes are being relocated to the Ruko Conservancy to keep fostering peace between the historically clashing Pokot and Ilchamus communities.



**New York, USA**  
Copies of newspapers on sale the day after President Biden announced he would drop his re-election bid.

**Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
Burnt vehicles inside a government premises after protests in Dhaka. The government has imposed a nationwide curfew and deployed military forces after violence broke out in Dhaka and other regions following student-led protests demanding changes to the government's job quota system.



**Teahupo'o, Tahiti**  
Australian surfer Molly Picklum trains for the Paris Olympic Games.



**Maletto, Italy**  
The 'deer moon' rises in the Voragine crater of Mount Etna. The full moon in July is known as the deer moon, a definition derived from the Native American tribe of the Algonquins, and a reference to the maximum development of male deer antlers.

Source : The Guardian