

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 2024



FUNDA Y TIMES



A cosy book nook at Sri Lanka Design Festival

Pic. by Akila Jayawardena

COMPETITIONS

PAGE 2

KIDS' WORLD

PAGE 3



TSUNAMI AWARENESS

PAGE 4

(ONLINE)

EVENT

PAGE 5

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

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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.

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:
December 13, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Event
- **Page 6** – Fun Crafts
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

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.

Christmas Cover 2024

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in their paintings for the Christmas Cover Competition.

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative. All entries should be on A4 size paper.

Please write 'Christmas Cover' at the back of your picture, along with your Full Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number and School.

All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will be disqualified.

The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue. The winner will also receive a prize. Good luck and happy painting!

Age groups: 4 - 15 years

Closing Date : December 12, 2024

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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.

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

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Read-a-Book for October **WINNER!**

Aysha Manaal
'Maze Runner: The Death Cure' by James Dashner

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

Happy Birthday



Kashyapa Athauda
13 years on November 9

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.

My favourite place on Earth



K. Biyanthra (11 years)
Hindu Ladies' College, Colombo

My holiday in Kandy



Sulaksha Weerasingham (Grade 2)
Ladies' College, Colombo

Flowers sleep at night



Ranaya Abeywickrama (5 years)
Galle International College

Beautiful environment



Senul Thewjan (Grade 3)
Kavantissapura M.V., Embilipitiya

A great leader

Who is a great leader? Let me explain it to you as a story.

There once was a village. That village was an under-developed village without proper water and toilet facilities. It was all because of the corrupt village governor. He was a complete fraud. He never worked to uplift the standard of living of the villagers. He was selfish. He stole all the money that he got from his tax payers. People were sick of his leadership.

And because the village was in a really bad state, many people started leaving to neighbouring villages. Since some couldn't afford to leave, they didn't have any choice but to remain in the ruined, destroyed village.

So, one day the villagers carried out a protest and overthrew the corrupt governor. But then they had another problem on their hands. Who would be the next governor?

Then an election was held and a man was elected as governor. He was a very kind, educated and qualified man. He was an amazing leader. Under his leadership the village was up and about in a few months time, since he never gave up even in a challenging situation. He helped people economically, stood up with his people at all times, held strong, maintained everything well and also communicated with his fellow villagers well. And everyone lived happily ever after.

M. Saeedh Khan (13 years)
Royal College, Colombo

My pet

My pet is a dog. Its name is Tinku. It is white and black in colour. It has four legs. It loves to eat meat. It can run. Tinku plays with me. I love my pet.



Thanuja (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

My country

My country is Sri Lanka. It is in the Indian Ocean. It is an island. My country is very beautiful. There are rivers, mountains, forests and waterfalls in my country. Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers live in my country. There are ancient and historical places. Many tourists visit my country.

I love my country very much.

Suganthan Labishan (7 years)
Harvard Int. School, Matale

'You are what you eat'

Food is very essential to our lives. The proper quantity and quality of food is very important to live a healthy life.

We must always try to have a well-balanced meal in order to get all the nutrients needed for our bodies to function well. There are various nutrients that need to be included in a well-balanced meal. They are; carbohydrates, proteins, oils and fat, vitamins, minerals and water (H₂O).

It is also very important to take our meals on time. When we do not have a well-balanced meal, our body will suffer from various nutrient deficiencies.

In conclusion, health is wealth.

Julian De Sylva (8 years)
St. Peter's College, Colombo

Avukana Buddha statue

In the celestial realm of Anuradhapura, Where arts flourished and sculptors thrived, Stands the Avukana Buddha statue, Close to Kala Wewa, a serene presence. One hand raised in Abhaya mudra, Bringing reassurance to the forefront. A legend thrives in Anuradhapura, The spirit of the Avukana Buddha statue, Crafted by King Dathusena, A timeless emblem of solace, And a statue of profound reassurance.

Akeef Ahamed (Grade 9)
Royal Int. School, Kurunegala

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.



Remembering the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

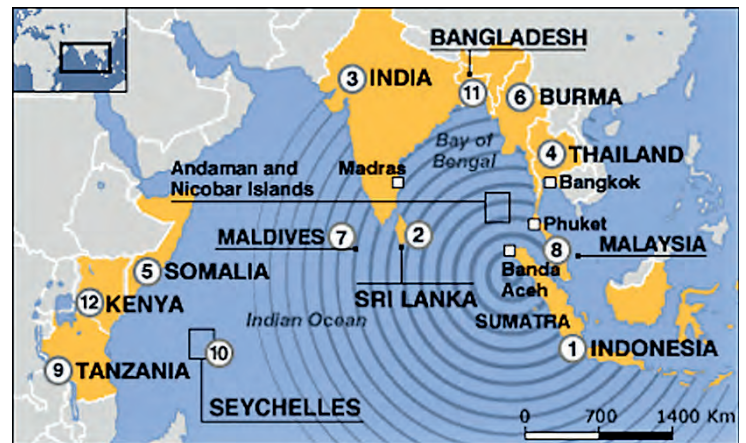
On the morning of December 26, 2004, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake occurred off the coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Within minutes, a tsunami hit the shores of Sumatra and claimed the lives of around 167,000 people.

The tsunami caused over 227,000 fatalities in 14 countries, with the worst affected being Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives and Thailand.

The earthquake ruptured the greatest fault length ever to be recorded, which spanned around 1,500 km. This meant that the waves travelled farther, resulting in them reaching as far as Mexico, Chile and the Arctic.

The 2004 tsunami was a tele-tsunami (also called an ocean-wide tsunami or distant tsunami), which is a tsunami that originates at least 1,000 km away or more than 3 hours of tsunami travel time from the affected coastline.

Tele-tsunamis occur approximately every 15 years; the 2004 tsunami, which was nearly 20 years ago, was the most recent tele-tsunami to occur.



Peraliya: The World's Worst Rail Disaster

The Samudra Devi ("Queen of the Sea") was travelling from Colombo to Galle when it was swept away by the waves of the tsunami at Peraliya.

It is considered the worst rail disaster in the world due to its death toll of over 1,700 people.



Train wreck at Peraliya, Sri Lanka.

In 2015, the United Nations declared November 5th as World Tsunami Awareness Day to raise awareness about tsunamis and share innovative methods of reducing risks and mitigating impacts of tsunamis.



How a schoolgirl saved the lives of over 100 people

At the time of the 2004 tsunami, 10-year-old Tilly Smith was on holiday with her parents on a beach in Phuket, Thailand.

Minutes before the tsunami occurred, she had noticed the waves were oddly frothy and that the sea was surging.

Just two weeks prior, she had learnt about tsunamis at school during a geography class and recognised the signs of a tsunami.

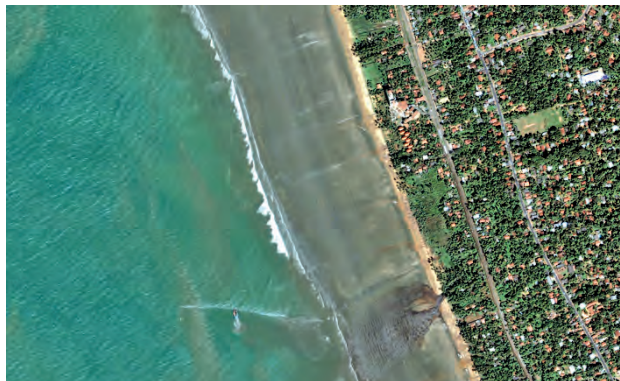
She immediately told her parents; they had never heard of tsunamis, but despite his initial scepticism, her father listened



Tilly Smith

to her and convinced a security guard to evacuate the beach.

Consequently, over 100 people were saved when the tsunami hit, and it was all because a little girl paid attention in school!



The sea receded approximately 150 metres from the shore during the 2004 tsunami – Kalutara, Sri Lanka.

What to do if a tsunami strikes (or is about to strike)

- Remain calm and move to higher ground (100 feet above sea level) or 1 mile inland
- If the above is not possible, use the stairs (not an elevator) to get to at least the third floor of a sturdy building that is unlikely to be washed away by a tsunami
- Follow the instructions of local officials and avoid any coastal areas until the authorities confirm that it is safe, because tsunamis can last for hours and the first wave may not be the deadliest.
- If you are in a boat, go out to deep sea, as tsunami waves are barely noticeable in deep sea.

Warning signs of a tsunami

- Strong earthquake (of a magnitude of 6.5 or more on the Richter scale)
- Rapid recession of water (leaving the sea floor exposed)
- A rapid, unusual rise or fall in the water level
- Loud roaring noise from the ocean

Sources: United Nations, UNDRR, NOAA, National Geographic, UNESCO, Britannica



The Children's Festival of the Sri Lanka Design Festival 2024 presented by the Academy of Design (AOD) was held on November 9 at Cinnamon Life Colombo.

A session on Sustainable Creativity for kids aged 4 – 10 years was conducted by Lashinika Gunasekara and her team.

Pix by Akila Jayawardena



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



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Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

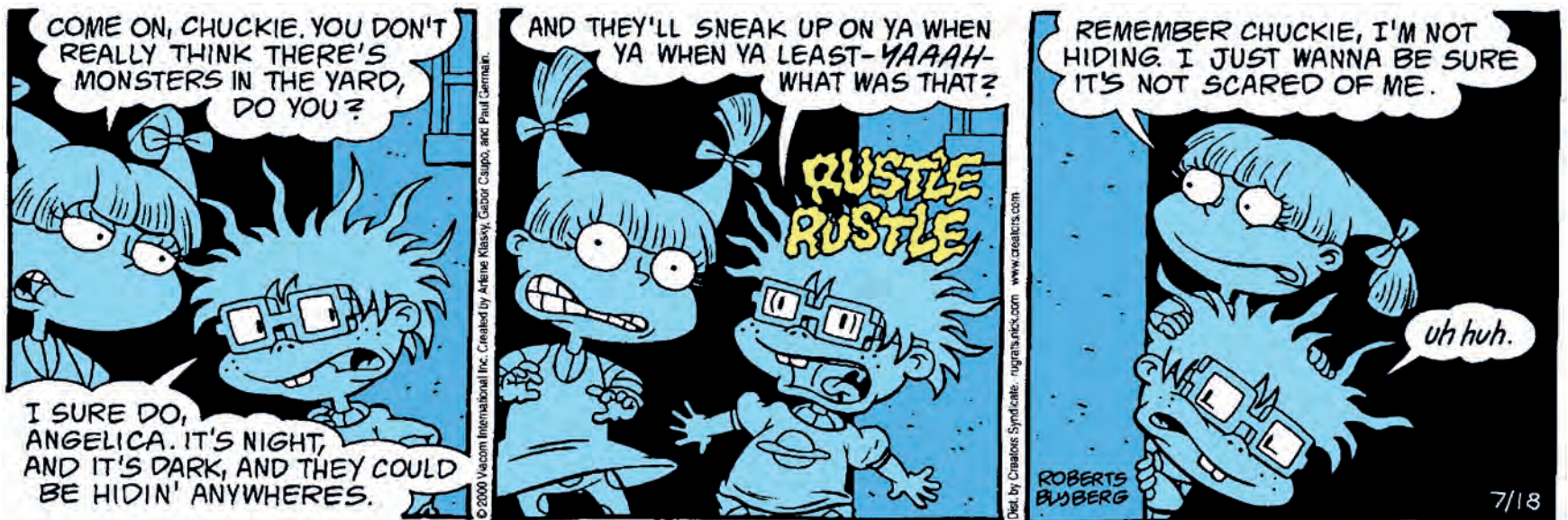
Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval:

Date:

Rugrats



Paper Plate Christmas Tree

Supplies Needed



- Paper plate (1 per tree)
- Clear tape
- Green paint
- Glue
- Multicoloured pom-poms (Stickers, beads, gems, buttons, sequins or whatever you have on hand, could also be used.)

Method

- In order to make the cone shape, you will need to cut a chunk out of your paper plate.
- Find the centre and cut out a wedge of about a quarter of the plate.
- Roll the plate into a cone shape and seal with tape.
- Since you will be painting the cones, keep all the tape on the inside.
- If you find you need tape on the outside, wait until your paint is dry before taping it down.
- Paint your cone green.
- After the paint dries, glue on all your pom-poms or other decorations. We had a bag full of pom-poms and thought they were a fun addition. We also thought our trees looked a lot like party hats!



Have fun decorating and don't hold tight to the pom-pom suggestion.

When you're done, find a fun place to display your cute mini paper plate Christmas tree.

Source: Creativefamilyfun.net



Santa Advent Calendar

Help Santa nail his Christmas look — one cotton ball at a time.

First, cut out Santa's head and red hat on pieces of white and red paper.

Draw on his eyes, pink cheeks and nose, then jot down 1-25 on his white beard.

Starting on December 1, tape up a cotton ball each day, until Santa's beard is complete.



Twig Ornaments

This craft comes with an adventure:

First, take a foraging walk outside to gather twigs.

Then, use glue to create holiday shapes and finish with festive embroidery thread wrapping.



Source: goodhousekeeping.com

G20 summit: What is it and who is going to be there?

November 18, 2024

World leaders, including British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Joe Biden, have travelled to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil for a big meeting called the G20.

The Group of Twenty (G20) is an annual event where leaders from world nations, plus representatives from the European Union and the African Union, meet to discuss the most important issues affecting people around the world.

This year, they are likely to be talking about the global economy (which is the making and selling of things), conflicts going on in Ukraine and the Middle East, and climate change.

On day one of the event, Keir Starmer met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, which is significant, as no British prime minister has met the Chinese leader since 2018.



The city of Rio is hosting the two-day G20 event this year.

They discussed the importance of a “strong UK-China relationship” for both countries.

There have been some tensions between the two nations over the Chinese authorities’ treatment of certain religious groups and China’s contribution to global warming.

But speaking at the start of the meeting, Mr. Starmer said: “We want our relations to be consistent, durable, respectful, as we have agreed, avoid surprises where possible.”

Who is invited to the G20?

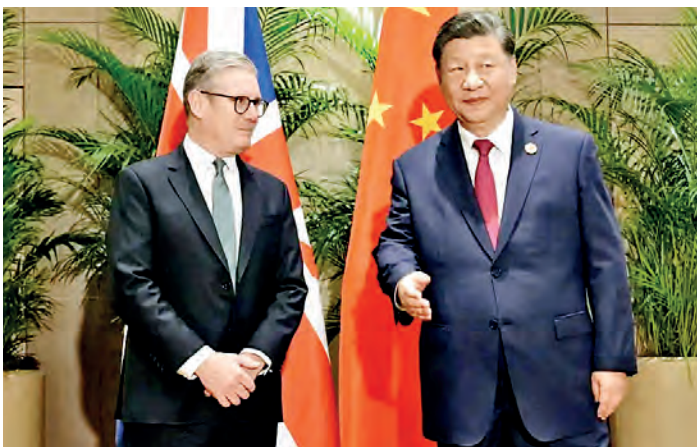
The countries at the G20 have more than 85% of the world’s wealth.

They are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Russia, Turkey, UK and USA.

Other countries can be invited to take part in summits and members aren’t necessarily the richest countries in the world. For example, Spain is always invited as a guest.

Members don’t always agree on things as they try to look after the interests of their own countries.

Source: CBBC Newsround



This is the first time a British prime minister has met the Chinese leader since 2018.

Winners of 5th ‘Arunalu Siththam’ children’s art competition



The artistic talent of 137 children was celebrated and rewarded with Rs. 3 million in cash prizes when the Commercial Bank of Ceylon concluded the fifth edition of its ‘Arunalu Siththam’ children’s art competition with a grand awards ceremony recently.

November 19

News in Pictures



London, UK
Farmers drive tractors into Westminster to protest against the changes to inheritance tax rules announced in the autumn budget.



Kyiv, Ukraine
People make a memorial to pay tribute to Ukrainian and foreign fighters on the 1,000th day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine at Independence Square in Kyiv.

Baku, Azerbaijan
Activists demonstrate against industrial agriculture and agribusiness lobbyists on day eight of the COP29 climate conference.



New Delhi, India
Women walk on a road near India Gate as the sky is enveloped with smog after Delhi's air quality worsened due to air pollution.



London, UK
Cast members Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo attend a premiere for the film 'Wicked' in London.



Nueva Ecija, Philippines
People ride on a rescue boat along a flooded street following super typhoon Man-Yi, in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

November 18

London, UK
Men dressed as Father Christmas take part in the Ministry of Fun's annual Santa school training, at the London Postal Museum, which is known for its archives of letters to Santa dating back to 1963.



Khan Younis, Gaza
A Palestinian girl cries as she waits to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, as the Israel-Gaza conflict continues in the southern Gaza Strip.



Jakarta, Indonesia
Children return home from school through high-tide floods that hit the Muara Angke area. The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) provided an early warning to people in coastal areas to be aware of high waves and high tides.

Sources: Reuters & The Guardian