



FUNDA Y TIMES



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(ONLINE)



ANIMALS

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Young artists inspired by Banksy

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:

February 19, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

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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.

HSBC Ceylon Literary & Arts Children's Festival

By Kavya Kadurugamuwa

The HSBC Ceylon Literary & Arts Festival, held in January 2025, proved to be an exceptional event. Alongside its literary aspects the event merged into the arts, films and music elements, offering a variety of creative sessions designed to nurture expression and imagination. The Festival had something for everyone, including children, with highlights being interactive workshops focused on art, writing and creativity.

Artika Bakshi, an author and advocate for children's emotional well-being, conducted a session inspired by her book 'Fun with My Little Handbook of Feelings'. Sharing her thoughts on the importance of giving children the freedom to express themselves Artika said, "I think this is a good space for children to be free to say what they want, draw what they want and write what they want."

Her session encouraged children to recognize that all feelings are valid, emphasizing that expressing emotions helps them navigate the challenges of the world. Artika highlighted the role that adults play in understanding and supporting children's feelings, stating, "Small hearts but feelings are big."

Another captivating workshop focused on art, where children were introduced to the works of renowned artists. The Art Studio conducted a session called 'Banksy Inspired Art on Canvas'. Children incorporated spray painting into the activity. The creative process encouraged kids to explore their artistic talents, crucial for their overall development.

The Festival also offered art supplies for free drawing and painting, along with books providing even more inspiration.

A few parents spoke about how good it is to have an event like the Children's Festival because it is hard to locate events in Sri Lanka that focus on children's literature and art. They said that such activities inspire kids to express themselves.

For many of the children attending, the event was not just about creating art or learning about famous artists — it was about a safe space to explore their thoughts, emotions and talents. The Festival created an environment where children can express themselves freely, develop their creativity, and gain awareness about mental health — offering them an opportunity to explore, create and connect.



Sri Lanka's 77th Independence Day

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Since the early 16th century, Sri Lanka was consecutively under the control of the Portuguese and Dutch, before becoming a colony of the British Empire in 1815.

On February 4, 1948, after over 100 years as a British colony, Sri Lanka finally became an independent nation. This year marks the 77th anniversary.



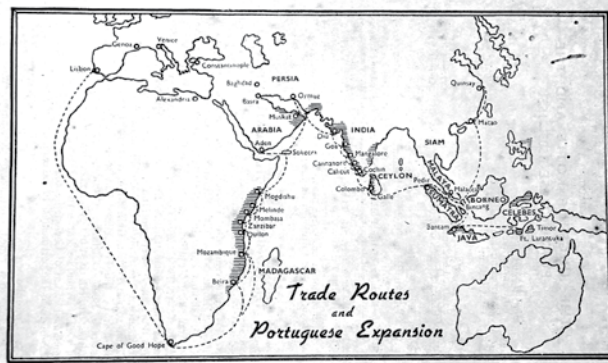
Portuguese and Dutch control

In 1498, Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama discovered a maritime route to India, opening the Indian Ocean to Europe.

In 1505, a fleet under the command of Lourenço de Almeida (son of the first Viceroy of Portuguese India, Francisco de Almeida) was blown off course and landed in Colombo, where they were received hospitably by the King of Kotte, Veera Parakramabahu.

They returned and established formal relations with Kotte, eventually obtaining permission to build a fort at Colombo. Over the following years, the Portuguese exploited the power struggle between the kings in Sri Lanka and took control of parts of the island.

In 1658, the Dutch began to take over parts of the island, through the Dutch East India Company, starting with the coastal areas and then gradually moving inland.



British colonisation

In 1796, the British began taking over parts of the island from the Dutch. Despite the Portuguese and then the Dutch controlling parts of Sri Lanka, none of them were able to conquer the Kandyan Kingdom. This changed in 1815.

The Kandyan chiefs, displeased with the actions of the Kandyan King, Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe, signed the Kandyan Convention and accepted the British as their sovereign.

However, barely two years had passed before they realised their blunder. Thus, from 1817 onwards, several rebellions arose but were suppressed by the British.



British in Ceylon

Independence movement

With the subsequent revival of Buddhism and Sinhala culture, a more organised and peaceful independence movement emerged.

Sri Lanka's independence movement successfully advocated for constitutional change and self-rule. Following negotiations, parliamentary elections were held in Ceylon in 1947. D.S. Senanayake won the majority and, as the first Prime Minister, was invited to



Ceremonial opening of the first parliament

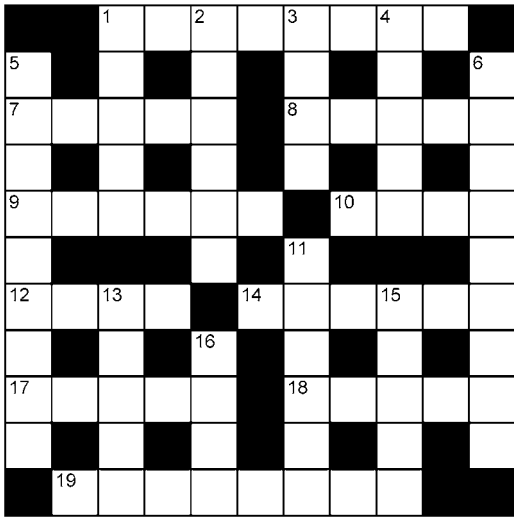
form the first cabinet by then Governor General, Sir Henry Moore.

Ceylon's independence was ceremonially marked with the opening of the first parliament at what later became Independence Square by Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester.

Post-independence

In 1972, then Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike (the world's first female Prime Minister) constitutionally declared Ceylon (until then, known as the Dominion of Ceylon) to a Republic and changed the name to Sri Lanka.

LUMALA Crossword – No. 6



- | Across | Down |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 A prickly animal | 1 An eye colour |
| 7 Shave with this thing | 2 With less light |
| 8 One of your senses | 3 Simple to do |
| 9 Divided exactly | 4 A keyboard instrument |
| 10 One time | 5 A big group of musicians |
| 12 Exchange for money | 6 Tried |
| 14 Face paint | 11 A type of nut from a tree |
| 17 Someone on a horse | 13 A large serving spoon |
| 18 Poke with your elbow | 15 Finished |
| 19 Beaten at war | 16 Costing nothing |

LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION

You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month. All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 6, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**. Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 6**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

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

Closing Date: February 26, 2025

Solution No. 5



WINNER
Sashen De Silva,
Colombo 5



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4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Match the rhyming pairs.

car	•	•	tree
bee	•	•	jar
plane	•	•	box
fox	•	•	train

4 – 6 years



- ▶ Ranaya Abeywickrama, Galle
- ▶ Hammud Shafraz, Dehiwala
- ▶ S. Viyasan, Kotagala
- ▶ Fathima Raabiya, Dehiwala

Winners please call **Funday Times** on **2479333/2479337** and arrange to collect your prizes.

Hi Kids,
Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.


We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.

FROM THE EDITOR

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



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 Competition

Name :

.....

Date of birth :

.....

Address :

.....

.....


.....

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

.....



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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.

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Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

.....

Rugrats



Indian Peafowl

Indian peafowl are a species in a group of birds called pheasants. The males are called peacocks, while the females are called peahens. Together, they are peafowl.

Peafowl are among the largest of all birds that fly. (Ostriches, emus and other such birds are bigger, but cannot fly.)

The beautiful feathers that cover the tail of a peacock are 5 feet (1.5 metres) long – longer than the bird's body – and can be displayed in a spectacular fan of brilliant colours.

Distinctive Tail Feathers

These tail feathers, or coverts, spread out in a distinctive train that is more than 60 percent of the bird's total body length and boast colourful "eye" markings of blue, gold, red and other hues. These long feathers actually grow from the bird's back not the tail. He elevates them by raising the much shorter tail feathers underneath them.

The large train is used in mating rituals and courtship displays. It can be arched into a magnificent fan that reaches across the bird's back and touches the ground on either side.



COMMON NAME: Indian Peafowl

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pavo cristatus*

TYPE: Birds

DIET: Omnivore

GROUP NAME: Party

**AVERAGE LIFE SPAN
IN THE WILD:** 20 years

SIZE: Body: 35 to 50 inches;
Tail: 5 feet

WEIGHT: 8.75 to 13 pounds



Females are believed to choose their mates according to the size, colour and quality of these outrageous feather trains.

Peahens are more drab than their male counterparts, with mostly brown on their back with a white belly. Females don't have long tail feathers, but they do have a crest on their head and green neck feathers.

Suitable males may gather harems of several females, each of which will lay three to five eggs. In fact, wild peafowl often roost in forest trees and gather in groups called parties.

Population

Peacocks are ground-feeders that eat insects, plants and small creatures. There are two familiar peacock species. The blue peacock lives in India and Sri Lanka, while the green peacock is found in Java and Myanmar (Burma). A more distinct and little-known species, the Congo peacock, inhabits African rain forests.

Indian peafowl are native to India and Sri Lanka, in South Asia. They've been introduced to other countries, usually as exhibits in parks, zoos.



Sources: National Geographic and NG Kids

Johann Peries becomes first Sri Lankan to summit Antarctica's highest mountain

January 29, 2025

Johann Peries has reached the summit of Mount Vinson, the highest mountain in Antarctica at 4,892 metres, to become the first Sri Lankan and one of the few islanders in the world to achieve this incredible feat.

In 2018, Johann Peries made history as the second Sri Lankan to summit Mount Everest, a monumental achievement that solidified his place in the country's mountaineering legacy. His extraordinary journey continued as he completed the summits of Mount Elbrus in Europe, Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa and Mount Kosciuszko in Australia.

No Sri Lankan has ever completed the 'Seven Summits' challenge, and only 350 people worldwide have done so.

Johann's mountaineering journey has not been without its challenges. In 2016, he attempted to summit Mount Everest with fellow Sri Lankan climber Jayanthi Kuru Uthumpala. While Jayanthi succeeded, Johann faced technical difficulties and had to turn back just 400 metres from the summit. Two years later, Johann returned to Everest, overcoming those challenges and successfully summited in 2018.



Johann's journey has also seen him face extreme conditions on some of the world's most dangerous mountains, including Mount Kilimanjaro (2014), Mount Aconcagua (2019), Mount Elbrus (2023), and Mount Denali (2023). In these expeditions, he has faced bad weather, tough terrain and life-threatening situations. On Mount Denali, he was forced to turn back on the final day due to severe weather conditions.

In February 2025, Johann will attempt Aconcagua again, and he plans to return to Denali in May 2025, undeterred by the setbacks he has faced.

Johann's accomplishments are more than just a series of personal



milestones. His efforts are helping to elevate Sri Lanka's presence in the global mountaineering community and encouraging a new generation of climbers to pursue the sport.

Mountaineering is a challenging and expensive sport, requiring discipline, physical and mental endurance and substantial training.

Johann has personally faced numerous life-threatening situations, witnessing the dangers of the sport first-hand. However, his resilience and determination to push forward have been unwavering.

"Mountaineering is not for the faint-hearted. It requires immense focus, training and the ability to endure physical and mental hardship," Johann reflected. "But the rewards are immense. I want to inspire all Sri Lankans to take on their own challenges, whether on the mountain or in life."

Source: Daily FT

Two huge 'islands' hidden beneath Earth's surface

January 26, 2025

Scientists have discovered more information about two huge 'islands' that are hidden beneath the Earth's surface.

Found deep in the mantle, more than 1,000 miles underground, they are the size of a continent.

Not only that, they are also hundreds of miles taller than the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest.

Experts now believe they are at least half a billion years old.

What did scientists discover?

Scientists have known for years that two 'islands' are located at the border between the Earth's core and mantle.

One is known to exist under the continent of Africa, while the other can

be found under the Pacific Ocean.

Both are hidden around 1,200 miles below the Earth's surface.

The team from Utrecht University in the Netherlands decided to take a closer look and find out more details about these 'super-continent' found deep underground.

Experts discovered that the 'islands' are much hotter than the surrounding slabs of the Earth's crust.



One of the hidden 'islands' is located beneath the Pacific Ocean.

Their research also suggests that they are much older too — perhaps by many millions of years.

Source: CBBC Newsround

News in Pictures

January 28



Bangkok, Thailand
A Chinese boy, Da Zhuang, 3 years, is seen with lion dancers on the eve of Lunar New Year in Bangkok.



Lerwick, Shetland Islands
Members of the Up Helly Aa Festival's 'Jarl Squad' pose with a replica Viking longship after the morning parade in Lerwick. Up Helly Aa dates back to the 1880s, and celebrates Viking culture and the heritage of the Shetland Islands.



Prayagraj, India
Hindus arrive for a holy dip at Triveni Sangam, the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati rivers, on the eve of the 'Mauni Amavasya', or new moon day, during the Kumbha Mela Festival.



Bangkok, Thailand
People pay their respect to gods as part of the traditional worship rituals on the eve of the Lunar New Year in Chinatown, Bangkok.



Haifa, Israel
A volunteer comforts 103-year-old Miriam Lineal, who survived the Auschwitz death camp, on the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German death camp in 1945.



Havana, Cuba
People attend the March of Torches, which is held annually in celebration of the birth anniversary of Cuba's independence hero Jose Marti.

January 27



Gaza Strip
Palestinians displaced south during the war make their way back to their homes in northern Gaza amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in the central Gaza Strip.

Source: The Guardian & Reuters



Gdansk, Poland
Girls dressed in folk costumes on their way to take part in the 33rd Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity event, which raises funds for sick children.



Belem, Brazil
Indigenous people from the Amazonian state of Para gather for an event at the headquarters of the Para state education secretariat. Hundreds have continued the protests that began two weeks ago, seeking to guarantee the right to education for Indigenous peoples.