

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 16, 2025



FUNDA Y TIMES



A scene from 'You Are Special'

Pic. by Eshan Fernando



EVENTS
PAGES 2 & 3



COMPETITIONS
PAGES 4 & 5

ONLINE

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

Follow us on
www.fundaytimes.lk

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:
April 2, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Competitions
- **Page 6** – Fun Stuff
- **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.



Avurudu Cover 2025

As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times *Avurudu* Cover. Would you like to send in a picture for our *Avurudu* Cover? If so, here's what you have to do.

Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it in to us. The painting should be on A 4 size paper. You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk. Please make your picture bright and colourful.

All entries should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.

The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times *Avurudu* issue. The winner will also receive a book voucher.

Wish you all happy painting!



Or



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Closing Date:
April 1, 2025



The 146th 'Battle of the Blues' between Royal College, Colombo and St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, was held on March 6 – 8, 2025. St. Thomas' College emerged winners after a thrilling final day of play.

Pix by Eshan Fernando



Miqdad Ahamed Thanseeh
7 years on March 12

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.

'You Are Special'
by British School in Colombo

The British School in Colombo staged 'You Are Special' a production by the students of Year 3 and 4, on February 27 and 28, at the school auditorium.

Set in Wemmicksville, the play followed the wooden figure Punchinello, who learned from Lucia and the kind woodcarver Eli that his worth wasn't defined by others.

The production captivated the audience with its message of self-worth, vibrant performances, colourful costumes and lively dance routines as well as a beautifully harmonized choir.



Pix by
Eshan Fernando



ComBank's 'Arunalu' supports
'Creative Champs' at Havelock City Mall



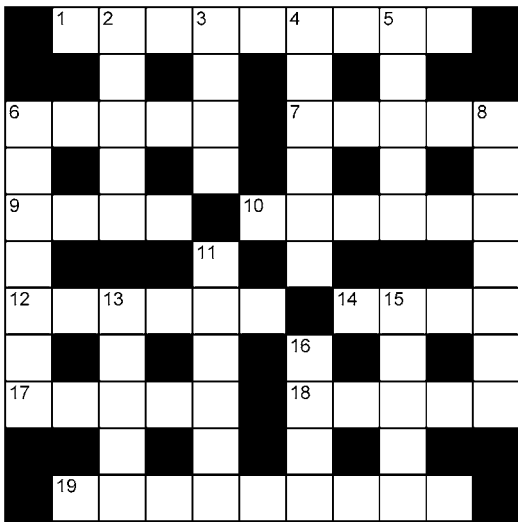
The Commercial Bank of Ceylon recently supported 'HCM Creative Champs 2025' a children's art competition organised by Havelock City Mall. More than 1,500 children aged 4 to 16 years participated in the competition and Commercial Bank's popular Children's Savings Account 'Arunalu' sponsored the trophies and gifts for the winners.

LUMALA Crossword No. 5 **WINNER**



Sashen De Silva, the winner of Lumala Crossword No. 5 collected his bicycle from the Lumala Showroom recently.

LUMALA Crossword – No. 7



Across

- 1 Dirtying of the environment
- 6 There are 52 of these in a year
- 7 Lift up
- 9 Small hotels
- 10 Fair-haired woman
- 12 From Germany
- 14 Small round mark
- 17 A large bird of prey
- 18 Rubbed with a cloth
- 19 People not known to you

Down

- 2 Sea
- 3 Final
- 4 An animal with a shell
- 5 A smelly vegetable
- 6 Twist and squirm about
- 8 Voted into power
- 11 Take photos with this
- 13 Correct
- 15 Write on this
- 16 A small branch

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. 7, 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. 7' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

Closing Date: March 31, 2025

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

Solution No. 6



@LUMALABIKES | 119, OLD GALLE RD, HENAMULLA, PANADURA | TEL: 077 755 2222 | LUMALA

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7 – 9 years



- ▶ Shyma Nafees, Gampola
- ▶ Fathima Aylah, Colombo 6
- ▶ Mohamed Rayyan, Matara
- ▶ Yhogeeshan Mohan, Kandy

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

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Spot seven differences between the pictures.



mailto: Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: The wild animal you like best

Win: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair by Enid Blyton

When Mollie and Peter go to buy their mother a birthday present, they discover the most extraordinary thing; a chair that can fly and grant wishes!

The Wishing Chair takes them on many magical adventures – and you never know what might happen next!



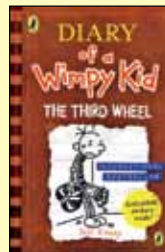
Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: The importance of water in our lives

Win: Diary of a Wimpy Kid – The Third Wheel by Jeff Kinney

A Valentine's Day dance at Greg's Middle School has turned his world upside-down. As Greg scrambles to find a partner for the dance, he's worried he'll be left out in the cold on the big night. His best friend Rowley doesn't have any prospects either.



But a lot can happen in one night and you never know who's going to be lucky in love...

Age: 13 – 15 years

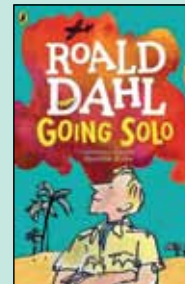
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: International Women's Day

Win: Going Solo by Roald Dahl

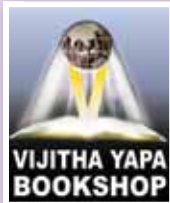
As a young man, Roald Dahl's adventures took him from London to East Africa, until World War II began and he became a RAF pilot.

Read stories of whizzing through the air in a Tiger Moth Plane, encounters with deadly green mambas and hungry lions, and the terrible crash that led him to storytelling.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



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

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it.

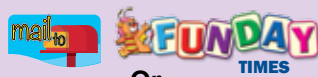
What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

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.



Or

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Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

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.



Or

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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.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: **Date:**

St. David's Day at British Council

British Council libraries celebrated the rich culture and heritage of Wales, where the spirit of storytelling blooms just like the vibrant daffodils – the national flower of Wales!

In honour of this special day, imagine a world where Welsh author Roald Dahl's iconic characters come to life, surrounded by fields of golden daffodils. Whether it's Matilda's bookworm magic or Willy Wonka's fantastical creations, books are there in British Council libraries in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna.



FUN CRAFT

Moving Windmill Recycled Craft

This recycled windmill craft is a wonderful idea, especially since the sails of the windmill actually turn! A little bit of art combined with a little engineering...

Materials:

- Egg Cartons
- Paper Cups
- Toothpicks or wooden skewers
- Paint

Method:

- ☞ Paint the paper cups a day before and keep to dry.
- ☞ Use egg cartons for the sails of the windmills. Cut out the cardboard on the top of the carton for the pink sails and then for the blue sails you can use the side of the carton.
- ☞ Between the paper cup and the sail, you need a little space so that the windmill sail does not scrape against the cup.



Make a pointy bit from the top of the pointy bits inside the egg carton.

☞ Use a metal skewer to make the holes before you put in the toothpicks or wooden skewer

☞ Egg cartons are rather strong so make sure not to break the wooden skewers.

☞ The doors and windows are made from bits and pieces of the egg box. Feel free to decorate your windmill as you wish...

Enjoy your little windmills!



Source: Good Housekeeping

The King's Baton Relay

March 11, 2025

King Charles officially launched the King's Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace on Monday.

This marks the start of the run-up to the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, where athletes from 74 nations and territories will be competing across 10 different sports.

The games will take place from July 23 to August 2, 2026, and Monday's events mark 500 days until the start.

What are the Commonwealth Games?

The Commonwealth Games is a multi-sport event which takes place every four years.

The first version of the event was held in Hamilton, Canada, in 1930.

Most of the countries and territories involved in the Commonwealth Games are also part of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is made up of 56 countries, many of which had been part of the British Empire.

The British Empire was at one time the largest known empire in the world, until the 20th century when many of the countries it controlled wanted to



The Commonwealth Games last took place in Birmingham in 2022.



Cycling champion Sir Chris Hoy received the baton from King Charles III to mark 500 days until the Commonwealth Games begins in Glasgow.



The King placed a secret message into the Commonwealth Games baton.

become independent from Britain.

The Commonwealth was created to help keep friendly relationships with many of the countries that became independent.

Some of the countries in the Commonwealth are very big, like Canada, India and Australia, while others are small, like the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu.

King Charles is head of the Commonwealth – and this is the reason that he will officially open the Commonwealth Games at the Opening Ceremony.

What is the King's Baton Relay?

The Baton Relay is an important tradition that takes place in the lead-up to each Commonwealth Games.

A specially designed baton is passed from one "baton bearer" to the next, as it travels through different countries in the lead up to the Games.

The 2026 relay, which began in London as part of the Commonwealth Day celebrations, marked the King's first as head of the Commonwealth.

His Majesty placed a sealed message inside the baton, which will remain

hidden until the opening ceremony of the Games in July.

The first baton bearer is Scottish cycling legend Sir Chris Hoy, a six-time Olympic gold and two-time Commonwealth gold medallist, who was handed the baton from the King.



Sir Chris Hoy holds the baton next to (from left to right) Gabriella Wood, Sammi Kinghorn and Keiran Healy.

The next baton carriers included wheelchair racer Sammi Kinghorn, environmental campaigner Keiran Healy and judo athlete Gabriella Wood from Trinidad & Tobago, who is currently studying at the University of Stirling.

Source : CBBC Newsround

Mark Carney will be Canada's next Prime Minister

Mark Carney, 59, has lots of experience guiding large banks through difficult times. He got the Bank of Canada through a time when banks and businesses around the world were struggling.

And though he's Canadian, he was chosen to run the Bank of England, and help the country as it faced the challenges of Brexit.

Mr. Carney isn't a politician. Currently, he doesn't even hold a seat in Canada's House of Commons. When Justin Trudeau announced in January that he was stepping down, Mr. Carney decided to run for the leadership of the Liberal Party.

On Sunday, he easily beat the three other candidates, taking 85.9% of the votes. Mr. Carney is expected to be sworn in as prime minister later this week.



Source : NewsForKids

March 11

News in Pictures



Karlsruhe, Germany ▲
Polar bear cub Mika, born on November 2, 2024 plays with cardboard during a media presentation at the zoo in Karlsruhe.



New Delhi, India
Army cadets perform 'Kalaripayattu', a martial art, during the inaugural ceremony of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. ◀



Busan, South Korea ▲
People clad in traditional costumes clash with others portraying Japanese police officers, re-enacting the independence movement of 1919, which students of Busanjin Ilshin girls' school led as part of the popular movement the same year that protested for independence from Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

Tokyo, Japan
People pray as they take part in a minute's silence to remember the victims on the 14th anniversary of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, in the Ginza shopping district of Tokyo. ▶



London, UK
King Charles III, Queen Camilla, the Prince and Princess of Wales attend the annual Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration at Westminster Abbey, in London. ◀

March 10



Jeddah, Saudi Arabia ▲
Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine, is welcomed by Prince Saud bin Mishaal bin Abdulaziz upon his arrival for talks between Ukrainian officials, Saudi and US representatives



Guatemala City, Guatemala ▲
The Fuego Volcano erupts.



Akkar, Lebanon ▲
A Syrian who fled the violence in western Syria, carries a child near the Nahr El Kabir River, after the reported mass killings of Alawite minority members, in Akkar.



Humberside, UK
Fire and rescue services attend after a collision between oil tanker MV Stena Immaculate and the cargo vessel MV Solong. ◀

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters