



# FUNDA DAY TIMES

Happy  
Sinhala & Tamil  
New Year!



**STORY**  
PAGE 2



**COMPETITIONS**  
PAGE 4

**ONLINE**



**AVURUDU**  
PAGES 5 - 7



Art by Thirandi Abeyesundara (13 years)



## Avurudu gifts

By Manoshi De Silva

Ayan went to the kitchen to fill his water bottle. His mother and grandmother were both busy making traditional sweets for Avurudu. Ayan's grandmother smiled with a twinkle in her eye and said, "We are going to fry *kevum* now! Are you coming to help us?"

Every year Ayan's grandmother helped his mother make Avurudu sweetmeats and celebrated Avurudu traditions with them. Ayan always stayed around their kitchen when they made Avurudu sweetmeats because he always got the broken ones to eat then and there.

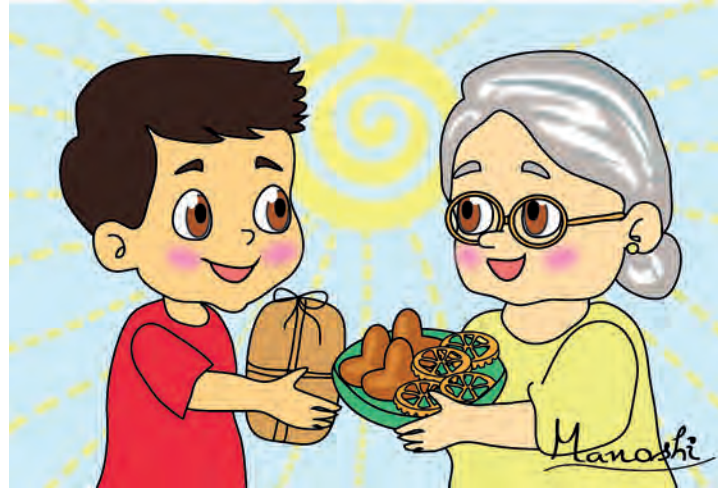
"No *Achchi*, I have to go practice for the Avurudu marathon," said Ayan. "It's the top event of this year's Avurudu *Uthsawaya*!" Ayan ran out and joined his best friend Jagan who was waiting for him. Jagan's family celebrated the Tamil New Year. Although the traditions were different, the excitement was the same for both of the boys.

When Ayan came home in the evening, his mother and grandmother had finished their cooking. "Tomorrow I am making *mung kevum*. Maybe we can sit together and enjoy frying them," smiled his grandmother.

"I won't be able to do any of that this time. I have to practice and somehow win first place at the Avurudu marathon!" said Ayan, who failed to notice the sadness in his grandmother's face.

The next day Ayan and Jagan sat down, after practicing for awhile. "You will win for sure!" said Jagan. "I wonder what the gift for first place is," said Ayan who was pretty confident about winning. "I heard that all the prizes are donations made by the people in our village," said Jagan. "I hope they have something nice for the marathon winner," he giggled nudging Ayan.

That evening Ayan went home late again. His mother and grandmother had finished making Avurudu goodies by the time he went home. "Let's go shopping tomorrow and buy new clothes for the Sinhala New Year," smiled his mother. Ayan frowned. "Not this time," he said, "I have to practice. You two go with *Thaththa*."



Ayan's grandmother and mother both felt sad but they smiled and agreed with him.

The 'Avurudu Uthsawaya' was held two days before Avurudu Day. There were many games and competitions organized. Ayan and Jagan took part in the marathon. Ayan won first place easily, just as everyone predicted.

After events like the tug-of-war, climbing the grease pole, selection of the Avurudu Kumari etc., it was finally time for the prize distribution.

Ayan received his gift, which was a somewhat heavy box, covered in brown paper. "What could this be?" he thought in excitement. After the Avurudu Uthsawaya finished, Jagan helped Ayan carry his gift home. But they stopped on the way, because Ayan couldn't wait to see what was in his gift box.

"What is this?" Ayan said in disappointment after he opened his gift. It was a box full of things like soap, toothpaste and such items. "Well these gifts are donations you know," shrugged Jagan. "Maybe they thought the winners will find these items useful for their homes." "This is not at all what I hoped for!" sulked Ayan, "I thought I'd get something that I would like. This is so embarrassing, I won't even tell my family about this!" "Hey but you won and that's what matters," said Jagan, trying to cheer him up but Ayan was not the least bit happy.

Ayan went home and pushed the gift box under his bed. He didn't even tell his family that he had won, because he didn't want to tell them about his gift. "The day after tomorrow is Avurudu and I am not even feeling happy. Avurudu used to be such a happy time in the past," he thought sitting on his bed feeling miserable.

"Putha, look at the clothes we got!" smiled his mother who peeped in to his room with shopping bags. "We also made *aluwa* today. You love *aluwa* don't you?" smiled his grandmother.

Seeing their happy smiles, Ayan realized why he was feeling sad. It was not just the disappointment of getting a gift he didn't like. There was a bigger reason.

Ayan realized that this year he had missed all the family activities that he enjoyed during Avurudu in the previous years. The happy moments he shared with his family, sitting in the kitchen, joking, listening to the stories his *Achchi* told and tasting the freshly-made sweets. Going shopping with his family, the togetherness and happy moments that came with Avurudu – he had missed all of this because he was more focused on winning, just to get a gift that didn't even matter anymore.

"They have done so much to make Avurudu special, but I just ignored all that," thought Ayan, feeling guilty. "Avurudu is a time for the family to unite. I must make things right. I should do something to make them happy!"

Ayan got an idea and pulled out his gift box from under the bed. There were enough things in there to make gifts for everyone in the family.

On Avurudu Day, giving betel leaves and worshipping elders was a tradition. Ayan worshipped his family members. He then surprised all of them by giving them a small gift each. He told them how he had won the Avurudu marathon and got his gift box. How happy he was with his gift box now, because he could share it with his family. Ayan's family was so happy to hear all this and to receive gifts from him.

Carrying a plate of sweetmeats to Jagan's house, along with a gift made from his gift box, Ayan realized how happy he was finally feeling. He was feeling very cheerful by sharing his gift with others and especially by making his family members happy.

It was truly a very special and delightful Avurudu Day for him and he couldn't stop smiling.

# DFCC JUNIOR

Gifts & Rewards for the habit of Saving,  
this Avurudu Season



Get more rewards when you save more with  
**DFCC Junior Children's Savings Account** this New Year season

Conditions Apply.



Account holders will also be eligible for the  
standard gifting scheme

**Special Gifts / Value Credit Scheme / Gift Vouchers /  
E-Gift Vouchers / Junior Rewards Scheme**

Offer valid till 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025, for childrens under 12 years, until stocks last

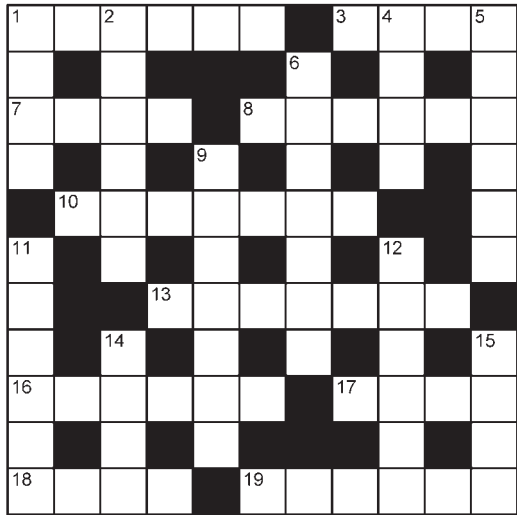
0112 350000 [www.dfcc.lk](http://www.dfcc.lk)

Fitch Ratings A (Ika)  
Licensed Commercial Bank supervised by CBSL

 **DFCC BANK**  
*Keep Growing*



**LUMALA Crossword – No. 8**



**Across**

- 1 A body organ
- 3 An animal with horns
- 7 Wipe with your tongue
- 8 Closer
- 10 Write this on an envelope
- 13 Sounds made by a sleeping person
- 16 Alive
- 17 Not willing to work
- 18 A water hole
- 19 A glass container

**Down**

- 1 Murder
- 2 Make up your mind
- 4 A rower pulls on these
- 5 A queen's special seat
- 6 A meal course
- 9 A household chore
- 11 Rest your head on this
- 12 Small child
- 14 Egg-shaped
- 15 A rubber cover for a wheel

**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. 8, 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. 8**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

**Age Group: 8 – 15 years**

Entries should include your full details and be certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

*Closing Date: April 30, 2025*

**Solution No. 7**



**WINNER**  
**Joash Peiris,**  
Moratuwa



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

Creating **Magical Moments...**  
**Filled With Excitement...**



Did you know the benefits of jigsaw puzzles?  
 \* Improves problem solving ability. \* Improves fine motor skills.  
 \* Helps cognitive development. \* Improves concentration.

Available at [shop.panther.lk](https://shop.panther.lk) [www.panther.lk](http://www.panther.lk) +94 777 441 144

**4 – 6 years**



- ▶ Eran De Alwis, Maharagama
- ▶ Mohamed Mirak, Dehiwala
- ▶ Yahaya Ahmed, Wellawatte
- ▶ Aaron De Sylva, Nugegoda
- ▶ Fathima Aamina, Dehiwala

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

**4 – 6 AGE GROUP**

Colour the picture.



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



**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 23, 2025**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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



**Shazad Ghaney**  
8 years on April 7

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.



**Avurudu Art**

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



**Senura Sewmina**  
(12 years)  
Maharagama Central College



**Ranaya Abeywickrama**  
(5 years)  
Southlands College, Galle



**Hasadu Sathsara**  
(15 years)  
Sri Chandra Rathna Manawasinghe V.,  
Maharagama



**Sanuthi Saveithma** (10 years)  
Musaeus College, Colombo



**Aradhana MS** (7 years)  
Colombo Int. School



**Otella Fernando** (7 years)  
Victory Christian Int. School



**Menuli Abeysinghe** (9 years)  
Musaeus College, Colombo

**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Avurudu Art
- **Pages 6 - 7** – Avurudu Games
- **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.



# New Year Fun Games

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year falls on April 13 and 14 this year. At the heart of the Avurudu celebrations are the traditional games that evoke memories of childhood and foster a sense of community spirit. These games, passed down through the ages, hold a special place in the hearts of Sri Lankans, transcending generations and bridging the gap between the past and the present.

## Kanamutti Bindeema - Breaking Pots

The main feature of this game is a line of suspended clay pots filled with water at a specific height. Something different is in one of the pots, like tinted water. This is the 'winning' pot.

Participants are blindfolded and given a bamboo pole with which they make wild swings to break the pots.



## Lime and Spoon Race

In this game, players must sprint, while holding a spoon in their mouth and balancing a lemon or lime.

Both children and adults like playing this entertaining game.



## Onchilla Padeema - Going on the Swing

Women and children ride the onchilla - the swings - strung on trees. Sometimes there are two people seated on the swing with another person swaying the swing back and fro while singing special verses known as onchili waram, also known as warang kavi.



## Kamba Adeema - Tug-of-War

In order to draw the rope across a predetermined line, two teams must tug on opposite ends of the rope.

Tug-of-War is a fun team sport that calls for strength, coordination and strategy.



## Kotta Pora - Pillow Fight

The two players in this game must maintain their equilibrium while fighting on a horizontal bar. One hand is tied behind the players' back. The other free hand must be used by the participant to grip the pillow.

By striking with the pillow, each player tries to force his opponent off his perch.



## Olinda Keliya - Game of Olinda

Olinda is an indoor board game for the New Year that is often played by two players who are seated on opposite sides of the board.

Nine slots on the board hold four beads each. Olinda seeds are used to make the beads. Players must move the beads from one hole to another and gather any seeds that are discovered there just after an empty one. The game's winner is ultimately the player who is able to gather the most Olinda beads.



## Pol Gamey Tharangaya - Coconut Scraping Game

In this game, players sit facing one another and hold half of a coconut. The goal is to use the ancient 'Hiramanaya' coconut-scraping instrument as rapidly as possible to remove the coconut flesh from the shell. The winner is the first player to scrape half of the coconut.



## Avurudu Kumara Kumariya Tharangaya

Traditional Sri Lankan clothing is required for this beauty contest; boys should wear a sarong and a shirt, while girls should wear a 'redda' and a 'hattaya.' Girls dress in traditional clothing, including necklaces and bracelets.

The judges base their ultimate judgment on factors such as appearance, teeth, hair, complexion and figure. Personality and talent are also taken into account.



## Pancha Keliya - Game of Pancha

This is an indoor game that is played in two groups with a game board, five little seashells and a coconut shell. To win in this game, you need to be skilled and precise.



## Aliyata Ehe' Thabeema - Placing the Eye on the Elephant

First, an eyeless drawing of an elephant is made on a chalkboard. Each person receives chalk and a blindfold to help them locate the elephant's eye.

This game is won by the player who draws the eye of the elephant in the correct spot.



## Goni Diweema - Sack Race

The goal of this race is to reach the finish line ahead of your rivals by hopping inside a sack or goni (gunny) bag.



## Lissana Gaha Nageema - Climbing the Grease Pole

A tall pole driven vertically into the ground is fashioned from the trunk of an arecanut tree. This trunk is covered in a thick layer of sticky oil. A flag is positioned at the summit as the trophy. It is up to the competitors to scale the tree and retrieve the flag.



## Bunis Kamey Tharangaya - Bun-eating competition

Buns hang from a horizontal string in this exercise. With their wrists bound behind their backs, the competitors form a line. They run and kneel in front of the dangling buns when they get the signal to start. The game's goal is to finish eating the bun as soon as possible.



## Drawing Kolam

'Kolam' refers to the traditional, auspicious designs drawn with coloured rice flour or other materials, typically on the ground outside homes, to welcome and celebrate 'Puthandu' the Tamil New Year.

These decorative patterns are considered auspicious and believed to bring prosperity and good fortune to the home.



## Raban Gaseema - Playing the Rabana

Playing the Rabana is meant for happy occasions. This drum is mainly played by elderly females but small children also like to join in.



Beyond the fun and excitement, the revival of these traditional games serves a deeper purpose. It fosters a sense of cultural pride and identity, encouraging younger generations to connect with their heritage and appreciate the customs passed down by their ancestors.

Source: Best of Lanka



April 1

## News in Pictures



### Sagaing, Myanmar

A collapsed bridge is pictured after the strong earthquake, near its epicenter, in Myanmar.



### Sydney, Australia

A surfer rides a large wave at Bondi Beach as high winds hit the east coast of Australia.



### Putra Heights, Malaysia

Vehicles from the Malaysia Fire and Rescue Department arrive at the scene of a massive gas pipeline fire in Putra Heights, outside Kuala Lumpur.

### Paris, France

The restored ceiling paintings by French painter Eugène Delacroix at the renovated library of the National Assembly. A hidden gem in the heart of the Palais Bourbon, the library is due to reopen in April after a year's work to restore its nave and its 400m<sup>2</sup> of painted ceilings, a masterpiece by Delacroix.



### Gaza Strip

Children look on, as they travel on a vehicle, while Palestinians make their way after fleeing areas around the southern city of Rafah, following an Israeli evacuation order, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

March 31



### Bangkok, Thailand

A rescuer picks his way across the wreckage of a collapsed building where dozens of people are still trapped after the Myanmar earthquake.



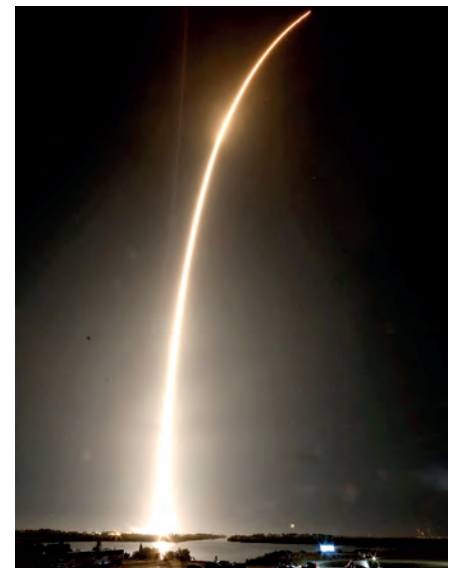
### Mandalay, Myanmar

People look on as search and rescue operations continue in the aftermath of the earthquake, in Myanmar.



### Vatican City

A person touches the 'Angels Unawares' monument, dedicated to the world's migrants and refugees in St. Peter's Square, as Pope Francis releases a text and does not lead the Angelus prayer at the Vatican.



### Florida, USA

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket is launched, carrying four commercial astronauts into a 90-degree inclination polar orbit on the Fram2 mission at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters