

FUN DAY TIMES



Elephants at the Kataragama Festival

Pic. by Nisal Baduge



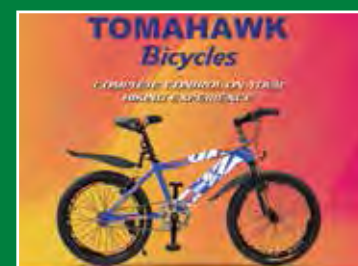
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From our Young Reporters

Is online education a growing issue?

At present due to the pandemic caused by coronavirus, almost every citizen in the world is working from home. As students we have to engage in our studies at home as well.

Online education means simply engaging in our daily studies using technology.

At present, we use zoom and other apps to learn. We use the internet.

We engage in these things using smart phones, laptops, computers etc. As with every activity, engaging in online education has advantages as well as disadvantages.



Some advantages of online education are that it makes our daily work easy. We can attend meetings without travelling from place to place. It can be easier to learn online because we can understand studies quickly, as the teachers are able to show some of the educational videos and are able to work faster.

A student in one of the leading schools in Negombo region says that online education has many disadvantages more than advantages as not all of the students in Sri Lanka have the opportunity to learn online because they lack the proper devices needed and a stable connection. Another student who will be sitting for an exam this year said that online education is not very successful

in a country like Sri Lanka, as it is not yet ready to enter a world with technology.

Some of the doctors in Sri Lanka have not approved the usage of different kinds of devices as it might be harmful to our eyes. Further more children have a high possibility of getting addicted to phones. Another disadvantage of learning online is that we cannot engage in physical activities like sports, gardening etc.

It is clear that online education is not a very successful way of learning. But as a nation we have to face and live with the coronavirus together.

It doesn't matter how you do your studies. If you believe in yourself, you can do anything.



Ann Amodya (14 years)
Ave Maria Convent, Negombo

Teenager bound for space

Oliver Daeman, an 18 year old Physics student is about to become the youngest person in space. Oliver is set to take the final seat on the space capsule scheduled for launch on July 20, by Blue Origin the space company founded by Amazon owner Jeff Bezos.

"This is so unbelievably cool!" Oliver said in a statement. "The flight into space only takes

10 minutes but I already know that these will be the most special 10 minutes of my whole life."

The capsule will blast off from west Texas atop a new Shepherd rocket, for a 10 minute flight.



Omalya Senarathne (10 years)
Lyceum Int. School

FUNDAY TIMES 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 report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Maths in Action 55

By R. N. A. de Silva

Google Translate – a statistical marvel

Google Translate is a multilingual translation service developed by Google to translate text from one language to another. It supports over 100 languages at various levels. It was launched in 2006 initially translating text word by word. In 2016, the process was enhanced to enable translation of whole sentences.

If you are learning another language, you would have started with basic vocabulary and grammatical rules thereby learning how to construct sentences. Google Translate takes a different approach. It lets the computers discover the rules themselves by analyzing millions of documents that have already been translated by human translators. These translated texts can be books, United Nations documents and transcripts and websites from all around the world.

In this way, Google's language translation program uses statistics to compare documents written in the first language with documents written in the second language. The computers scan the texts looking for statistically significant patterns and use them to translate similar texts.

This process which does not rely on the knowledge of definitions or grammar is called 'Statistical Machine Translation'. It relies on probabilities as to the chance of converting a sentence



in the first language correctly into another language. The probability is enhanced with the increased scanning of texts. There can be errors in the translation as the probability may not be one with the translation between any two languages. Statistical machine translation has roots in information theory, a branch of applied mathematics dealing with signal processing and data compression.

When you use Google Translate next, be appreciative of the mathematical developments which made this possible.



Math Plot - 55

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to ndesilva@osc.lk within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

A small number of cards have been lost from a complete pack. If I deal among four people, three cards remain. If I deal among three people, two remain and if I deal among five people, two cards remain. How many cards are there?

Math Plot 54 – Solution

The answer is

31	73	7
13	37	61
67	1	43

The winner is

Kannan Thamilkkumaran of
Lyceum Int. School, Panadura,
Congratulations!

Happy Birthday



Chaniru Abeysooriya
13 years on July 25

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 (except Reeves Art) are accepted by email.

Please 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 No. 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 weekly competitions:

August 11, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Tomahawk

Quiz
No.185

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 185 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of June 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2021. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 185' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners

will receive brand new

Tomahawk Mountain Bikes

with the compliments of

Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years are eligible to participate.

(Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: July 31, 2021



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

TOMAHAWK Bicycles

COMPLETE CONTROL ON YOUR BIKING EXPERIENCE

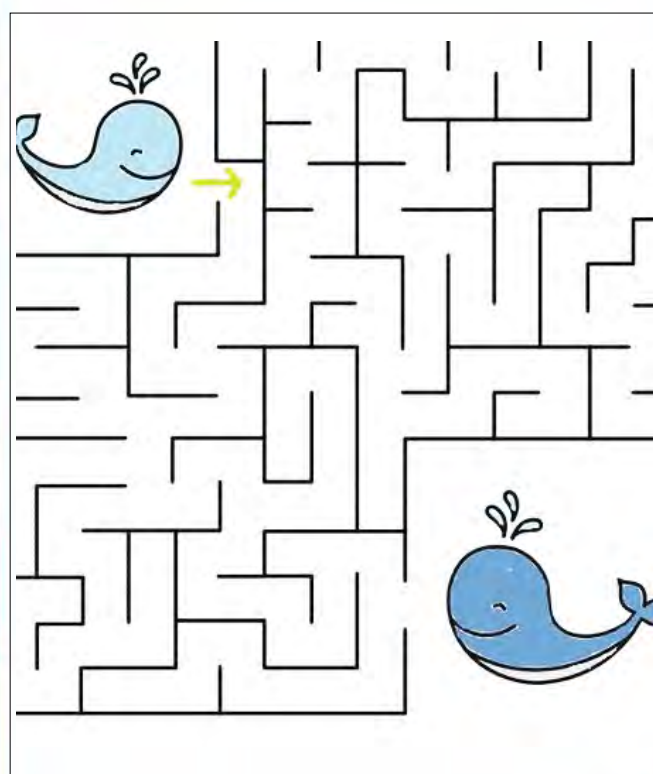
@TOMAHAWKBICYCLEOFFICIAL | 245 B, GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 04
BAMBALAPITIYA - 011 250 7307 | @TOMAHAWKBICYCLES

QUESTIONS — QUIZ NO. 185

1. When was the first World Environment Day celebrated and what was its theme?
2. Name three types of ecosystems and three threats they currently face.
3. Who was the longest serving royal consort in British history?
4. What is the third tallest Buddha Statue in the world named and where is it situated?
5. Name the host country for the NATO summit held this year.

4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Help the baby whale find its mummy.



Or



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Panther Educational activities are specially designed to assist a child's brain development

Awakens A Child's Mind



NOTE

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.

We regret that we are unable to announce winners this week since we are working from home. Stay safe.

Let's read with Room to Read!

Dear Children,

Today's story is called 'Unnie and Innie'.

When summer comes, Unnie spends all of his time playing with his toys. After a while, he gets bored with his toys and wants something new to do. He notices that his neighbour, Innie, is never bored. Where do you think Innie finds these adventures?



Let's begin...

Hooray! Summer is here!
Children don't have to go to school in the summer.
They can sleep as late as they want!
It's the first morning of the summer vacation and Unnie wants to play.
"Innie, do you want to come to my house to play?" asks Unnie.
"I am busy reading a book, Unnie," says Innie.
That afternoon Unnie is still playing.
"Hey Innie, come and play with me!" calls Unnie.
"I told you, Unnie! I am busy reading a book!" says Innie.
The sun is about to set and Unnie is getting tired of playing alone.
"Come to my house, Innie! I have so many toys!" he says.
"I AM BUSY READING A BOOK, UNNIE!"
Unnie is frustrated. "What's so interesting about that book?"
"I must find out!"
Unnie goes to the tree where Innie is reading.
"What's in that book?" asks Unnie.
"I'm rescuing the princess," Innie tells him.
"Really? Where?" says Unnie excitedly. "Show me!"
Now, Unnie and Innie are battling the monsters together.
Finally, they rescue the princess!
For the rest of the summer, Unnie usually comes to Innie's house... and they both read books together.

-The End-

These storybooks are published by Room to Read, who believes that **World Change Starts with Educated Children.**
This book was first published by Room to Read Vietnam.

This week's trivia
Why can't Innie play with Unnie during the summer vacation?

Send your answer to literacylk@RoomtoRead.onmicrosoft.com and stand a chance to win a storybook by Room to Read! One lucky winner will be chosen every week and the prizes will be given at the end of the series.



Access the full story with illustrations via Room to Read's [Literacy Cloud](https://literacycloud.org/stories/587-unnie-and-innie/).
<https://literacycloud.org/stories/587-unnie-and-innie/>

Cartoon Time!

Hey Kids! We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what's more they will be your own cartoons. So, here's a chance for you to try your hand at producing your very own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption. It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes). The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times. So good luck to all you cartoon fans!

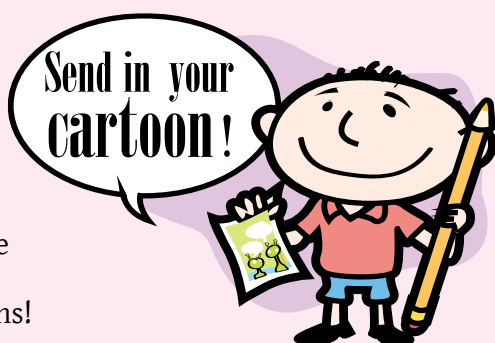
Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything. They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Jokes



July 20

News in Pictures



Gaza City, Gaza Strip
Palestinians attend special prayers on the first day of Eid al-Adha.



Lima, Peru
Supporters of school teacher Pedro Castillo celebrate after the official proclamation of him as president-elect of Peru.



New York, USA
Actor Kylie Begley attends the premiere of 'Old' at Lincoln Center.

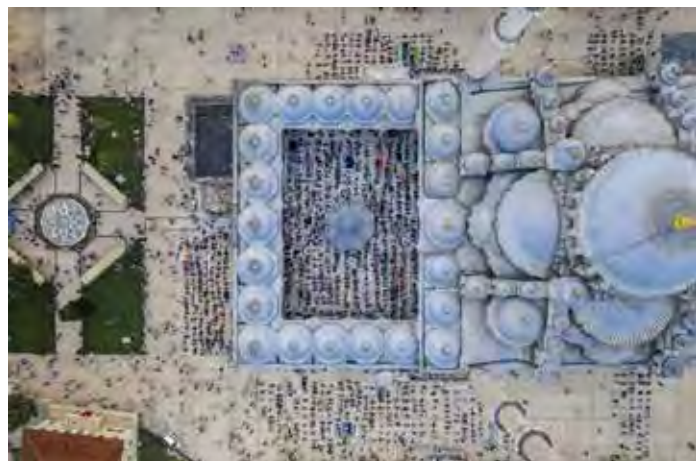
Kaprun, Austria
Cows stand by a shed in a flooded meadow.



Seoul, South Korea
A resident takes a bottle of water from a refrigerator set up for villagers at a neighbourhood park during a heatwave.



Barcelona, Spain
Manuel Molina, 80, sits on an amphibious chair as he is helped by lifeguards before swimming in the Mediterranean, on Barcelona's Nova Icària beach.



Istanbul, Turkey
Muslims gather to perform Eid al-Adha prayers while obeying social distancing guidelines at Fatih Mosque.

Haian, China
Workers check solar panels at a photovoltaic power station built in a fishpond in Jiangsu province.



Beatty, USA
The remnants of cars destroyed by the Bootleg fire are seen near Oregon.

Source: The Guardian

July 19

News in Pictures



London, UK

Passengers arriving at Waterloo station on the day lockdown restrictions are lifted in England.



Bad Muenstereifel, Germany

Firefighters in an area affected by floods caused by heavy rain.



Cheseaux-Noreaz, Switzerland

The flooded parking area of the VD8 campsite on the eastern shore of Lake Neuchatel.

London, UK

People without face masks shop on Oxford Street as coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

England lifted virtually all of its coronavirus restrictions on July 19, setting it at odds with the three other nations of the UK and sparking concern among scientists.



Brighton, UK

Clubbers queue around the block at a few minutes to midnight waiting for COVID-19 restrictions to be dropped and for Pryzm nightclub to open its doors.



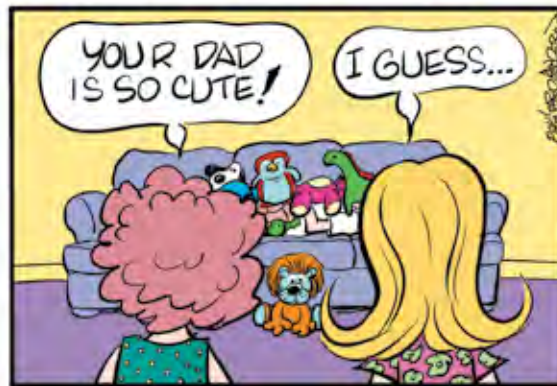
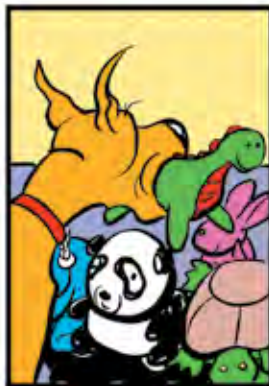
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Muslim pilgrims pray at Namira mosque on the plain of Arafat during the annual Hajj, outside the holy city.



Travemuende, Germany

Two women prepare to spend the night in a specially designed beach chair on the Baltic Sea coast. A hotel owner is offering the special accommodation for the first time at German beaches.



DOG GONE FUNNY SEAL BEACH, CA
LAURA SCHNEIDER'S LITTLE YELLOW WIRE-HAIRED TERRIER LOVES TO HELP FOLD THE LAUNDRY. HE GRABS THE PAIRED-UP SOCKS AND SHAKES THEM LOOSE AND GRABS HOLD OF A CORNER OF FOLDED TOWELS AND BLANKETS TO STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT. HE IS SUCH A GOOD HELPER!

Rugrats

